

NEWS ROUNDUP

Cardiff favourite for new BA base

British Airways is to spend more than £60 million in building a new engineering base to maintain its growing number of aircraft (Harvey Elliott writes). Facilities are needed as establishments at Heathrow and Gatwick airports have almost reached capacity in the handling of BA aircraft plus aircraft sent for "service" by other airlines. Cardiff has emerged as the favourite for the new base, which could provide 1,500 jobs and be in operation by 1993.

There is a world shortage of engineering facilities, and it has been calculated that between now and the end of the century there will be an 80 per cent increase in demand for new engineering facilities.

The new base, which could be built in Cardiff, Liverpool or the Far East, would not involve a reduction in work at Heathrow or Gatwick, which will be expanded to their limits within the next few years. Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, said in Cardiff last night that a decision on whether to go ahead with the creation of the new base at Cardiff airport would be taken this summer.

'£5m fraud' charges

A futures dealer accused of fraud was remanded in custody for a week yesterday. Mr Stephen Paul Francis, aged 27, of Westmoreland Terrace, Fimbo, central London, faces four charges laid under the Forgery and Counterfeit Act of 1981.

Few details of the charges have been disclosed, although Mr Francis's defence lawyer confirmed outside court that the alleged fraud involved "at least £5 million". The four charges, all relating to a single document, were not read to Guildhall Magistrates' Court in the City of London and Mr Francis did not speak during the two-minute hearing.

No action on diplomat

A senior diplomat arrested five months ago under the Prevention of Terrorism Act will not be charged, it was confirmed yesterday (Quentin Cowdy writes). Mr Andrew Balfour, aged 39, a former vice-consul at the British Embassy in Dubai, was questioned about possible involvement in an alleged visa racket. The Crown Prosecution Service, however, has decided there is insufficient evidence against Mr Balfour, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Defence deal likely

Britain is expected to win a huge defence export contract with the purchase by South Korea of about 100 Hawk jet fighters (Michael Evans writes). No deal has been completed, but the Seoul Government is expected to sign an initial order for about 20 two-seat Hawk jet trainers, which are built by British Aerospace at Broughton, Humberside, Warton and Samlesbury, near Preston, and Dunsfold in Surrey. Seoul is known to want 100 Hawks in all.

Murder charge

A 48-year-old man was last night charged with the murder of Ruth Stevens, the missing Wiltshire shop assistant. He is expected to appear before magistrates today in Wiltshire accused of killing Miss Stevens, of Westbury, who disappeared on December 12. Police have not yet found her body. Her Vauxhall Viva car was found in London more than two weeks after her disappearance.

Flu adds to death toll

More than 100 people a day died of influenza in the week before Christmas (Thomson Prentice writes). The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said yesterday that deaths from all causes in the week ending December 22 totalled 19,180, including 782 directly attributable to flu. The weekly average of deaths from all causes in mid-December is about 12,000, suggesting that the epidemic was an underlying cause of many of the extra 7,000 deaths.

Exclusion order sought

Labourer set free then rearrested

By Robin Young

An Irish labourer against whom no evidence was offered on a charge of possession of explosives was rearrested yesterday before he could leave court.

Police then applied to Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, for an exclusion order which would ban Mr Daniel McBrearty from returning to the UK for at least three years.

Mr Martin Heslop, for the Crown Prosecution Service, told the court that swab tests taken from the hands of Mr McBrearty, who was arrested on October 5, showed traces of the explosive RDX, which was consistent with his having handled the explosive.

Mr Heslop said the swab tests were the only evidence against Mr McBrearty, of East Ham, east London. It was possible the traces of explosive had been transferred to Mr McBrearty's hands by chance contact with someone else at work or where he lived.

Mrs Gareth Pierce, Mr McBrearty's solicitor, asked when the scientist who examined Mr McBrearty on October 5 had first been asked whether the traces on his hand might have arisen from innocent contact with someone else. Mr McBrearty should have had the opportunity to question the evidence "three months and three days ago".

On hearing that he was to be discharged, Mr McBrearty turned to his cheering wife and friends, waved his fists in the air, and shouted: "Always innocent, always innocent."

He was immediately rearrested on leaving the dock,

however, and his wife Melia collapsed in tears when told of the application for an exclusion order.

● A Dublin court yesterday ordered the extradition of Desmond Ellis, aged 37, a TV engineer, of Dunsink Road, Finglas, to stand trial for terrorist bombings in Britain.

Police have warrants alleging that he had explosives in his possession and conspired with three others to cause explosions in the United Kingdom between January 1, 1981 and October 27, 1983.

District Justice Mary Kotsouris ordered that he be handed over to the Metropolitan Police at Baldonnal military airport, outside Dublin, and be taken to London. After the hearing at the Dublin District Court, Ellis's lawyers said he would appeal.

He was arrested in April on the British warrants when freed from Portuguese prison after an eight-year sentence imposed by the anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

He had jumped bail before his trial in 1982, and fled to the United States, but he was deported to Ireland. In June last year an apparent attempt to free him from custody was foiled when police found a 1lb Soviet bomb attached to a grid near the cell in which he was being held on remand.

● Papers have been stolen from a Ford Fiesta belonging to Dr Brian Mawhinney, the junior Northern Ireland minister. It was disclosed yesterday. The papers, in a holdall also containing personal effects, concerned constituency matters.

Phoney war that became a bitter battle

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

When leaders of the five unions involved in the ambulance dispute gathered in the vestry of a Blackpool church in the first week of September to announce a ban on overtime and rest-day working, few imagined that the confrontation between crews and managers would become so bitter and emotional.

Since then, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, has become embroiled in a Conservative minister's nightmare: a dispute in which a big proportion of the public appears to side with the unions.

The September meeting marked the first time most had heard of Mr Roger Poole, the chief union negotiator, who has since become an instantly recognizable public figure. His members had rejected a 6.5 per cent pay offer last May, but it was in September that he announced that they wanted their pay to be determined by the index-linked formula enjoyed by firemen — "no there will never again be action over pay".

This has since become a fundamental issue, preventing agree-

ment between the two sides. A trained fire officer earns £13,125, while an ambulance officer earns £10,093. To achieve parity, the union leaders insisted in September that their members were also part of the emergency services, and demanded a rise of 11.4 per cent.

Mr Clarke has consistently said this will not be conceded. The dispute began with a four-to-one vote for industrial action in a workplace ballot. However, its effect was minimal until, on September 19, the stakes were raised by officers and control assistants starting an overtime ban in sympathy with crews.

The phoney war quickly became earnest and intensified further on September 22 when joint talks broke down after Mr Duncan Nichol, chief executive of the National Health Service, said he could not accede to union demands for the dispute to go to independent binding arbitration.

Eight days later, London was the focus of an increasingly acrimonious stalemate as crews in the capital refused to work normally and the police were drafted in to deal with emergency calls. Amid claims by each side that the other was making patients suffer, a marathon negoti-

ating session was held at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on October 26. However, the gap was too wide to be bridged by stale pre-dawn sandwiches.

The failure of those talks effectively spread the dispute from London to large areas of Scotland and the English provinces, notably the Midlands, although apparently the areas of Britain were virtually unaffected. The dispute took on a new political and emotional momentum when on November 8 the

6 Offer of 6.5 per cent is an insult to hardworking and dedicated people

Army was brought in to run emergency services in London. On November 17, Mr Nichol announced a "substantial new offer", saying that £5 million would be brought forward from this year's funds to allow an offer worth 11.5 per cent over 18 months.

The rate for qualified men and women, he said, would go up to £11,001 outside London and to £12,384 for crews in the capital. He

also offered additional payments for specially-trained paramedical staff, who he said would thus receive rises of up to 16.3 per cent. The offer was immediately rejected by the union, which argued that it amounted to little more than the original offer of 6.5 per cent over 12 months.

Towards the end of November, in an announcement that may have considerable bearing on the way the ambulance service is run, Mr Clarke warned that continuation of the dispute might lead to non-emergency work being contracted out.

On December 8, Mr Clarke announced that the moderate Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel would be recognized as a negotiating body in a move intended apparently to undermine the position of the crews. However, it backfired when members of the association began resigning and decided the offer was also unacceptable.

At Christmas, Mr Clarke infuriated ambulance crews and politicians, including some Tory backbenchers, when he wrote to a Nottingham girl, aged 15, saying that the vast majority of crews were professional drivers, and that this was "a worthwhile job — but not an

exceptional one". A call for a Christmas truce was rejected.

On January 3, Mr Clarke wrote to health authority chairmen, saying it would be "unfair" if the officers were to win a bigger pay rise than others "by taking crude industrial action". He said: "We cannot reintroduce the notion into the service by conceding a formula or pay mechanism for ambulance staff that links them to firefighters, the upper quartile of manual workers' pay or any other device."

"It would be a disaster for the NHS if every year the Whitley Council (the industry's bargaining body) opened with a benchmark award to ambulance staff based on some generous formula of the kind that the police have."

Last Friday, Mr Nichol wrote to Mr Clarke accusing him of ignoring the offer to review the 1986 salary structure "without pre-conditions".

Mr Poole has not flinched in his determination to win a better agreement. "The offer of 6.5 per cent is an insult to a hardworking and dedicated band of people. They deserve better. The country believes they deserve better so why can't the Government treat them better," he said.

Waddington to check evidence on pub bombers

By Richard Ford and Stewart Tendler

New submissions on behalf of the six men convicted for the Birmingham public house bombings will get speedy consideration, Mr David Waddington said at his first meeting as Home Secretary with Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister in London yesterday.

Submissions on behalf of the Birmingham six were sent to the Home Office in December by Miss Gareth Peirce, one of the defence solicitors. The six — Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Dick McIlkenny, Gerry Hunter and Billy Power — have always protested their innocence in the bombings, claiming they confessed after they were beaten.

It is almost two years since the Court of Appeal threw out the second appeal by the six against their conviction for the 1974 bombings.

That appeal included challenges to forensic evidence against two of the six: evidence from two former police officers and a former police station cleaner which backed the men's claims that confessions were beaten out of them, and police documents raising doubts about confessions.

The new submissions are said by the Home Office to be substantial and detailed. It will take Mr Waddington

some time to examine them and decide if there is a new case to go to the Court of Appeal but no one yesterday could say how long his deliberations will take.

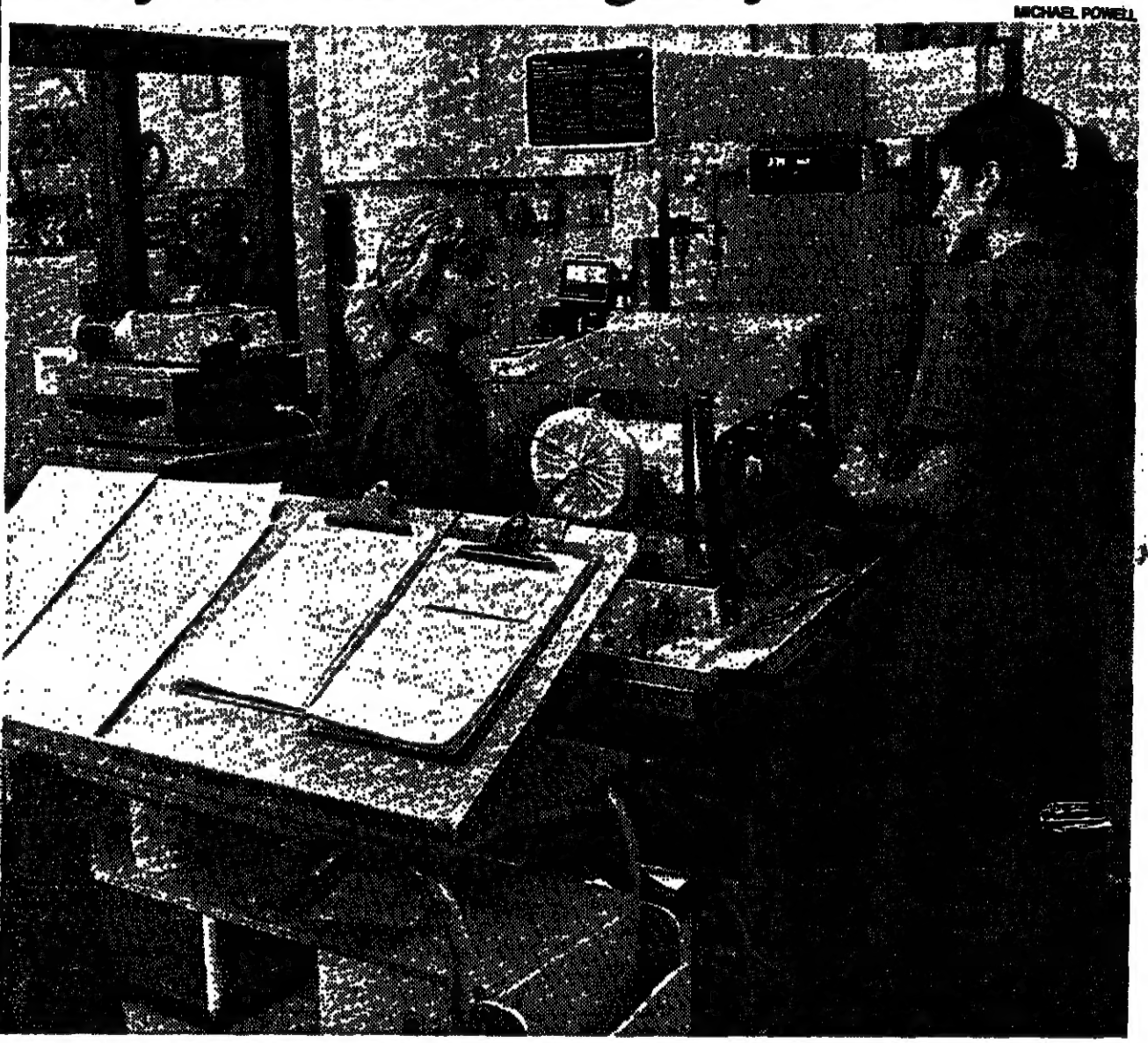
The Home Office said there was no question of calling on police at the moment to follow up points in the submissions. Devon and Cornwall officers investigated a number of areas for the last appeal hearing.

Yesterday the Irish minister and officials were given no details of the new evidence sent to the Home Secretary but it is understood that it is essentially "not very startling" and concerns discrepancies in the timing given by police when certain forensic tests were made after the men's detention. The evidence had not previously been presented in court.

Irish sources believe that not too much significance should be made of the security reclassification last year of the Birmingham six from category A to category B.

Although some in the Irish Republic believe this was a preparatory move towards their release, there is a feeling that the change in category was recognition that the prisoners had been of good behaviour and that it might open the way to their being moved to an open prison.

Baby care unit emergency after deaths



Nurses caring yesterday for a premature girl who was moved from the paediatric intensive care unit to another ward at the Brompton Hospital, Fulham, west London, after six babies sharing the unit died. Doctors said their deaths were caused by an unidentified virus, which could affect the heart or lungs. The unit and three operating theatres were closed.

Ridley launches strong defence of Thatcher

By Our Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has had to endure more "vicious" personal abuse than any other prime minister in living memory, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said yesterday.

Mr Ridley blamed Labour and many in the media for the caricature of Mrs Thatcher as an arrogant and autocratic leader. He said: "The 1980s have been the decade when we in Britain have pulled ourselves up by our own bootstraps."

"We must ensure we don't

opt out of the 1990s by letting the intellectually poverty-stricken assassinate the character of one of the greatest leaders we've ever had."

Speaking to party workers in his Cirencester and Tewkesbury constituency, Mr Ridley said Mrs Thatcher did listen to countervailing arguments: "She does listen; and then she acts. That is what leadership means. It is not presiding benignly over a committee of disparate people striving to find a vague compromise. Her strong sense of purpose has transformed our country."

Mr Ridley said he resented the "campaign of vilification

and character assassination which she has had to endure, of a far more unpleasant, vicious and personal kind than any previous prime minister I can remember."

● Mrs Margaret Thatcher spoke of industry and universities working more closely together than ever before when she opened an Advanced Technology Centre for research and development at the University of Warwick, in Coventry, yesterday (Craig Seton writes).

Mrs Thatcher praised the creation of the £10 million postgraduate facility for research into high technology

vehicles and engines, funded mainly by the Rover Group and Rolls Royce plc: "We really now can compete with the very best of the world over."

She wanted to see the productivity of British industry, its unit labour costs and its advanced technology "way ahead of Germany, which we can do".

Academics and industry were working together in "a great cross fertilization of ideas".

Previously, Government

Labour plans to halt student loans Bill

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The Labour Party will attempt to block the controversial student loans Bill in Parliament today by calling for an adjournment when the legislation is debated in committee.

The move comes after the refusal of commercial banks to continue negotiations with the Government over the administration of the scheme.

If Labour's move is successful, ministers will be hard pressed to get the Bill through both Houses in time to introduce the scheme in September, notably because senior Conservative peers are planning to hold up the Bill when it enters the Lords.

The Bill contains no details of how a student loans scheme would work but merely states that the Secretary of State for Education and Science shall have the power to introduce a loans mechanism.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said yesterday that now the banks had pulled out, Parliament had no information about how the scheme would run, or who exactly would run it.

A motion to adjourn a Bill in the committee stage is almost unknown, and although few Conservatives are expected to support it there has been criticism of the Bill

from backbench Conservatives. Mr Robert Rhodes James described its brevity as "an insult to Parliament".

When he announced that the banks had pulled out of negotiations with the Department of Education and Science, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the withdrawal would not affect the proposals except that students would be denied an advice point and convenient means of registration.

However, Mr Straw said he wanted to know whether the Student Loans Company, based in Glasgow, would be a "direct Civil Service operation, a Civil Service agency, or some arms' length quango".

● Mr James Fawcett, chairman of the Conservative backbench education committee and member of the standing committee scrutinizing the Bill, said it was "going ahead despite a little local difficulty with the banks".

CORRECTION

The director of the Oxford Street Association, quoted in a January 3 report on the rating system, is Mr Harry Shepherd, not Mr Roy Shepherd.

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Assembly line allegations

Motor dealers 'paid £650,000 for spares stolen from Ford'

By Ronald Faux

Production workers stole Ford components worth thousands of pounds and sold them in a nationwide conspiracy, it was alleged yesterday.

Police found parts worth £130,000 at one motor dealer in east London, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

The conspiracy was helped by a lack of stock checks on the assembly production line at Halewood, Merseyside, and a management-union agreement banning body checks for workers leaving the plant.

Robert James Whyatt, aged 40, of Billericay, Essex, Robert Anthony Croft, aged 29, of Chadwell Heath, east London, and Michael Robert Holland, aged 48, of South Ockendon, Essex, all pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to handle stolen Ford car parts between January 1985 and November 1988.

Mrs Lynn Jones, aged 37, of Badminton Street, Liverpool, denied two charges of handling stolen parts.

Seven other men have already been convicted of conspiring to handle stolen Ford parts.

Mr Eric Somerset Jones, QC, for the prosecution, said no exact figure could be put on the loss to Ford or the profit to the alleged conspirators, although it was a massive and long-term operation.

When police searched the premises of RJW Automotive Ltd in Barking, east London, stolen Ford parts worth £130,000 retail were seized. Invoices disclosed more than

£650,000 of stolen parts were received in the previous year.

Mr Somerset Jones said the parts were in containers alongside the Halewood assembly line. No stock check was kept and an agreement banned body searches of workers.

Some workers taped parts together and hid them in their clothing, he said.

The spares were collected at a central depository in Liverpool and transferred to a "fence". They were handed over in a car park or lay-by to Ian Ainsworth, of Ilkington Road, Preston, Lancashire, who paid for the delivery after selling the parts to apparently

Agreement banned body searches of Halewood workers

legitimate retail outlets. They were paid for with a blank cheque and invoiced with a false value-added-tax number.

Mr Somerset Jones said one outlet was RJW Automotive, owned by Mr Whyatt. Mr Croft and Mr Holland helped to manage the company and knew of an arrangement between Mr Whyatt and Ainsworth under which the company bought stolen parts.

During the alleged conspiracy, the turnover of RJW Automotive soared from £270,000 in 1985 to £1.2 million by 1988. Turnover fell sharply in the months after police searched the premises.

The conspiracy was uncovered

after the chief security officer at Ford noticed halogen bulbs were not in their normal packaging at a main dealer. The bulb manufacturer confirmed that they had been meant specifically for the Ford production line. Invoices showed they had been supplied by RJW Automotive.

Mr Somerset Jones said that each transaction had averaged between £4,000 and £5,000 and the prices paid were very much lower than the normal retail value. Stolen parts were put in polythene bags printed with the Ford logo to give the impression they had come from a genuine source.

He said the ridiculously low cost of the parts, the fact that goods were supplied as available and not as required, and the absence of proper business premises when the parts were exchanged meant the defendants must have known the goods were stolen.

Mrs Jones was charged because she had been seen handling the stolen parts. Ainsworth, aged 36, described meetings with the "Liverpool lads" in lay-bys near the M6 and in a secluded wood yard, where goods and cash were handed over.

He said Mr Whyatt had arrived for a meeting in a white Porsche to set up the agreement. Mr Somerset Jones asked Ainsworth if he had said that the spares were legitimate. Ainsworth replied: "I said they were stolen."

The trial continues today.

Rushdie publishers under siege in Kensington



A Muslim campaigner standing opposite the London headquarters of the publishers, Viking Penguin, in Kensington yesterday morning at the start of a five-day vigil to stop

further publication of Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*. Campaigners refused to condemn the death sentence on Mr Rushdie passed by the late Ayatollah

Khomeini. Speaking at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Regent's Park, Dr Ali Mughram Ghamdi, chairman of the UK action committee on Islamic affairs, said: "The insult

to the Muslim community is unparalleled." He added that the committee had urged Muslims to keep their protest within the law, but if someone went beyond the law, "we

would not condone it, we would not condemn it". Muslims from Cardiff, Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow, Leicester and London took part in the protest.

Husband accused of slaughtering family

By Ruth Gledhill

A spurned husband murdered his wife and her parents after she left him to escape his repeated beatings, a jury was told yesterday.

Only the family pet, an alsatian bitch called Cindy, survived the slaughter in a bungalow.

Mr Rene Hillebrand, aged 21, an unemployed Dutchman, denies the three murders on April 7 last year.

Mr Hillebrand, aged 21, was furious because his wife Dawn, aged 25, had left The Netherlands to live with her parents in south-east London, the Central Criminal Court was told.

Mr Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said Mr Hillebrand had warned his wife's relatives: "Marriage is until death us do part."

found dead with nine stab wounds under a duvet in the spare room by Mrs Nicola Eaves, her younger sister.

The bodies of their parents, Mr Alan Sturgeon, aged 50, a Thames Water employee, and his wife Margaret, aged 49, an auxiliary nurse, were found beneath another duvet between the beds in the same room. They also had multiple stab wounds.

They were last seen alive at 10.15pm the night before as they walked the dog near the bungalow in Whitehall Lane, Slade Green, Erit.

Mr Boal said that while they were out Mr Hillebrand, who had already bought the murder knife and an imitation pistol, slipped into their home. Mrs Eaves and her husband

Michael called the next day. Mr Boal said: "After letting herself in with her own key and taking in four bottles of milk she had found on the doorstep, Nicola went into the spare room which was used by Dawn."

"It was dark. The curtains were drawn and as she looked to her left she saw a quilt or duvet beside the beds."

"Protruding from the bottom of the duvet were a pair of legs. She realized she was looking at her sister."

She ran outside, calling for her husband, who went back into the spare room and found the other bodies. Mrs Sturgeon had been put on top of her dead husband. Mr Boal said the killer had cleaned the house after dragging the bodies into the spare

room. "Their shoes had been lined up against a wall in the room. One pair was heavily bloodstained."

The killer had opened drawers and stolen jewellery to make the crime look like a burglary. There was no sign of a forced entry, however.

Mrs Hillebrand had married in August 1987 after meeting her husband while working at an Israeli kibbutz. Mr Hillebrand, of Postle-Kade, Amsterdam, was arrested two days after the murders as he was about to return home from Gatwick Airport.

A bandage covered a deep cut to his right palm. "Who am I supposed to have murdered?" he was alleged to have said.

The trial continues today.

Judge tells Brown jury that case is not about morality

By Mark Souster

The jury in the case of Ron Brown, the Labour MP who is charged with theft and criminal damage at the flat of his former mistress, will this morning be sent out after five days of hearing evidence.

Judge Gower, QC, sitting at Lewes Crown Court, told them to ignore the fact that Mr Brown, MP for Edinburgh, Leith, was a public figure, whose trial had attracted a "blaze of publicity".

The judge said: "It is very important that you should not judge Mr Brown by any different standard from that which you would apply to the trial of anybody else."

"One must not expect from a man, simply because he is in a public position, a higher standard of morality and behaviour than that which we would expect from anyone else. He is a human being like the rest of us."

Mr Brown, aged 51, and married, is charged with theft and criminal damage on April 25 last year at Mrs Nonna

Longden's flat in St Leonards on Sea, Sussex.

In his summing up, Judge Gower, told the jury that they should not convict Mr Brown of theft if they were convinced he did not intend to permanently deprive Mrs Longden of the items.

Both the judge and Mr Mr Edward Rees, for the defence, in his closing speech, stressed that the fact that Mr Brown had opted not to give evidence should not be held against him.

Mr Camden Pratt, for the prosecution, said the Crown's case was that Mr Brown had committed the offences acting out of spite.

Mr Pratt said Mr Brown had "prevaricated" to shift the blame on to other people. "It was to save his own skin that Mrs Nonna Longden and Mr Dermot Redmond (her new boyfriend) were put through the hoop during cross-examination." Mr Pratt alleged that Mr Brown had taken a picture, jewellery and underwear "not

because they were of great value but because the removal of them would hurt".

He said the MP's defence was that Mrs Longden was a "blackmailer" over alleged demands of up to £20,000 for politically sensitive tapes, and that Mr Redmond was "a liar."

Mr Rees said the case against his client rested on the "reliability" of both Mrs Longden and Mr Redmond, who had called the police on the night of the alleged incident.

He said: "They have told some whoppers and they have lied on oath." He asked the jury: "Would you buy a used car from Mr Redmond? This is not a joke, it is quite serious. If the answer is 'no' we are in a different game in this courtroom. You are being asked to convict a man and do him irreparable damage on the word of a man you wouldn't buy a car from."

Judge Gower will finish his summing up this morning

West Midlands readvertises top police post

By Craig Seton and Stewart Tandler

The West Midlands police authority decided yesterday to readvertise the £55,600-a-year post of chief constable after only four candidates put their names forward for what is regarded as one of the top jobs in British policing.

The Labour-controlled authority has also dropped the condition it originally imposed that applicants must be either serving chief constables or officers of a similar senior rank within the Metropolitan Police, which would usually be the level of assistant commissioner or acting assistant commissioner.

The authority is asking sim-

ply for "suitably qualified officers" to apply. Last year, the police authority for another smaller force decided to readvertise the post of chief constable. There has been criticism that not enough top-quality officers are reaching senior levels. Late last year, the Home Office announced the creation of a fast stream of officers to encourage high fliers.

Some posts, however, do encourage big numbers of applicants. The post of chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary drew more than a dozen applicants last year before a London officer was chosen for the job.

The four applicants for the West Midlands post, which is being vacated by Mr Geoffrey

Dear, are Mr David O'Dowd, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, Mr Michael Hirst, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, Mr Ian Oliver, Chief Constable of Central in Scotland, and Mr John Newing, a Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who has been working at the Home Office.

However, sources within the force of 7,000 officers said yesterday that four applications were not an unusually low figure for a post that was likely to attract only the highest calibre of experienced senior officers.

It was pointed out that when only three candidates applied for the job when it was vacant in 1985, it was also

decided then to readvertise, resulting in only one more applicant coming forward before Mr Dear was appointed.

The source also dismissed the suggestion that potential applicants may have been deterred by the present investigation by the West Yorkshire police into alleged corruption within the West Midlands force's disbanded serious crime squad. The source said a new chief constable would not be embroiled in an inquiry started long before he was appointed.

The decision by the police authority was taken by a panel of members appointed to shortlist applicants. They said in a statement that they had decided to readvertise the post

"to encourage all suitably qualified officers to put their names forward".

The authority's original intention to interview short-listed candidates over two days early next month and then announce immediately a successor to Mr Dear has been put back by a month.

Mr Dear, aged 52, leaves the force at the end of March to become Inspector of Constabulary for the Midlands.

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. The prize money in today's competition is doubled to £4,000.

Four admit to social security fraud plot

Three people were jailed and a fourth received a suspended sentence yesterday for their part in a plot to defraud the Department of Social Security of £3.5 million. The plot was described as the largest planned fraud against the department.

The four, all neighbours, were the Midlands team of a huge nationwide organization, Southwark Crown Court was told. They used forged pension books, birth certificates and rent cards to make claims at dozens of post offices.

In one month they collected £18,500, Mr Christopher May, for the prosecution, said. They handed the money to the "Mr Big", named only as Tony, and were paid.

The plot was discovered when an estate agent opened a house in north London and found forged documents and forging equipment.

Patsy McKnight, aged 24, Robert Higham, aged 31, Jayne Ledwith, aged 26, and Sarah Jinkin, aged 42, all of Leicester, admitted conspiring to obtain property by deception between August 1 and November 25, 1988.

Higham was a driver for the others who went into post offices, presented the forged pension books and collected money, Mr May said.

Mr John Hume, for the defence, said: "All these defendants are holding the baby for the big fish. The minnows should not share the burden of compensation."

McKnight, Higham and Jinkin were jailed for six months. Ledwith was sentenced for four months, suspended for two years.

Clay model may identify dead girl



The photographs of a model of a dead teenage girl (left) were released by police in Cardiff yesterday in an effort to identify the victim.

Her partly-clothed body was found a month ago rolled up in a carpet and buried under 18in of soil in a garden in Fitzhammond Embankment in Cardiff. Police believe it had been there for about five years.

Detectives asked Mr Richard Neave, a renowned medical artist from Manchester University, who rebuilt the face of the unknown victim of the King's Cross fire, to reconstruct the face of the girl. She was aged about 15.

Mr Neave used a cast of the dead girl's skull to work out the shape of her ears, nose and other facial features. He then constructed a clay model which has been photographed from all angles.

BBC 'regrets' bad language

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The BBC apologized unreservedly yesterday for the foul language used by the comedian Dave Allen during his comeback television show, screened at prime viewing time at the weekend.

The corporation said that a warning should have gone out before the programme informing viewers that some of the language might cause offence.

The comedian's use of four-letter words resulted in complaints to the BBC plus criticism in Parliament from backbench Tory MPs.

Mr James Moir, head of BBC TV light entertainment, said yesterday that the failure to provide viewers with a warning before the show was "a matter of regret". The

worst of Mr Allen's language came in his last joke - about people who have to watch the time all their working lives in their jobs, and when they retire they get "a L-ing clock".

Mr Moir, speaking yesterday on the BBC television programme, *Open Air*, said: "Clearly we are sorry if we have given unnecessary offence. On those occasions when this word has been used in the past on BBC Television, the programme has normally been preceded by a warning. It didn't happen on this occasion and on reflection this is a matter of regret."

Mr Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood, Bristol, intends to raise the matter with Mr David Wad-

dington, the Home Secretary, and has tabled a Commons question asking him to discuss the issue with the BBC.

© The BBC claimed victory last night in the annual Christmas ratings battle against ITV, helped by the three highest suited audiences on Christmas Day.

The film *Crocodile Dundee* attracted the biggest audience with 21.77 million viewers, closely followed by *Only Fools and Horses* (20.12 million) and *Bread* (16.51 million), according to official figures.

The viewing bonanza helped the BBC to an overall 52.8 per cent winning share of the Christmas week audience, compared with 47.2 per cent for ITV and Channel 4.

Kidney surgeon tested Turk with £5 note, hearing told

By John Young

A leading transplant surgeon waved a £5 note in the face of a Turkish print worker to try to discover whether he was being paid for donating a kidney, a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Mr Michael Bewick, one of three doctors facing charges of serious professional misconduct after allegations of a trade in London of paid-for kidneys, had taken the Turk's reaction to mean that he was not getting any money.

The hearing has already been told by the Turk, Mr Ferhat Usta, that he received more than £2,000 for his kidney, which was transplanted by Mr Bewick into an Israeli patient at a private hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London.

The £5 note "test", which was made shortly before the operation, was disclosed to the hearing by Mr David Sapsted, a reporter on *The Times*, who interviewed Mr Bewick about the allegations that four impoverished Turks had been brought to

London in 1988 and had been paid to donate their kidneys to wealthy, private patients.

He gave his evidence as the hearing was resumed in London at which Mr Bewick, Dr Raymond Crockett, a kidney specialist whose patients received the paid-for organs, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, all deny charges of involvement in the trade and of failing to ascertain whether the Turks were being paid.

Mr Sapsted said Mr Bewick had told him that the reaction of Mr Usta "of course means nothing", as anyone coming to Britain intent on selling a kidney was unlikely to admit it.

According to Mr Sapsted, Mr Bewick said that he was paid to look after people and not to interrogate them. That was Dr Crockett's job. Mr Bewick had told Mr Sapsted that he had known Dr Crockett for between five and seven years. He had developed a trust with him.

But when Mr Sapsted asked what sort of man Dr Crockett was, Mr Bewick had replied: "He never appears to be telling you

the full truth. It makes people very angry."

Mr Bewick had added that by the time he had talked with Dr Crockett for some four hours he was convinced that he was not "pulling people over" and paying them money to donate kidneys.

"If I were to start interrogating, I would have to give up operating," Mr Bewick was

reported to have said. "I don't know about a brokerage system in Turkey."

When Mr Bewick was asked whether he thought that Mr Usta was genetically related to the family of Mr B, a patient in a London hospital who was gravely ill and in need of a transplant, he said he had been told that he was a distant cousin. He knew that he could not be a close relative because all the members of Mr B's immediate family were Israelis.

Cross-examined by Mr Roger Bell, QC, for Mr Bewick, Mr Sapsted agreed that

client had been given no warning of the telephone interview.

"But he was certainly willing to speak to you?" Mr Bell asked. "Yes, he was very frank and open," Mr Sapsted said. Mr Sapsted said that Mr Bewick appeared convinced that Dr Crockett had nothing to do with paying donors and that Mr Bewick was insistent he himself had known nothing and that, if anything, they had been duped.

He had not asked directly whether the Turks who were alleged to have been paid to donate kidneys were content with the situation. There had been no suggestion at the time that any of them were unhappy.

Mr Sapsted was also asked about money said to have been offered to Mr Kenneth Westall, a former employee of the National Kidney Centre, in exchange for information. Sir Robert Kilpatrick, chairman of the committee, asked on what basis money had been paid to Mr Westall.

Mr Sapsted replied that it was not the policy of *The Times* to pay money for information but on this occasion it had been

agreed that Mr Westall should receive something for the considerable time he had spent in giving help with reporters' inquiries and because of the importance of the story in the public interest. "In effect it was for information?" "For assistance, yes." No story based on anything Mr Westall had said had ever appeared.

Mr Robin Stacey, a freelance reporter working for *The Times*, described an interview with Dr Crockett at his home in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, in the company of other reporters. Several of the questions concerned an advertisement placed in the *Al-Ahram* newspaper offering payment to kidney donors and mentioning Dr Crockett's name.

Dr Crockett had replied in a statement that allegations that he had been involved in placing the advertisement were completely untrue. After the advertisement appeared he had acted immediately by contacting his medical defence union and writing a letter of protest to the editor of the newspaper.

The hearing continues today.

£5m target is set to reopen canal tunnel beneath Pennines

By Peter Davenport

The first steps to raise more than £5 million to repair and reopen the longest underground canal tunnel in the United Kingdom have been taken almost half a century after the last narrow boat passed along its dank and dark inner reaches.

An Act of Parliament in 1944 closed Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal 133 years after it had opened to national celebration in a ceremony which saw 500 passengers singing "Rule Britannia" ferried beneath the Pennine Moors. It was considered to be unsafe and redundant.

Begun in 1794, it took 17 years to complete, claimed the lives of 50 workmen among the hundreds who toiled with picks, shovels and primitive gun powder to carve out the construction that was hailed as one of the great engineering feats of its day, equivalent to the modern day building of the Channel Tunnel.

Standedge Tunnel runs 3¼ miles beneath the Moors, linking the village of Marsden in West Yorkshire on the Eastern shoulders of the Pennines to Diggle, near Manchester, in the west. At its deepest point it is some 600

feet below ground. Crewmen on the barges which daily passed along its route had to lay on their backs and propel their vessels by "legging" along the roof and walls of the tunnel, an operation that would take up to four hours with a fully laden boat.

The tunnel, started by the engineer Benjamin Aoutram and completed by Thomas Telford, became a major artery for the Industrial Revolution providing an efficient means of cross-Pennine transport that replaced the old pack mule trains.

It was never commercially viable, however, and the dawning of the railway era around the turn of the century signalled its eventual demise. Today, it is the growth of pleasure boating and the heritage-leisure industry that is bringing about its resurrection.

Although national attention may be currently focused on the progress and costs of the tunnel which will link the UK to Europe, enthusiastic members of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Society, the driving force behind the restoration programme, insist that the estimated £5.5m cost of repairing their underground

waterway is a bargain. The Society has commissioned and published the findings of two surveys on the future of the tunnel. Together they cost £300,000, with half the funds being provided through the EEC and the rest coming from three local councils along the route of the canal, the Society itself and the Yorkshire Sports Council.

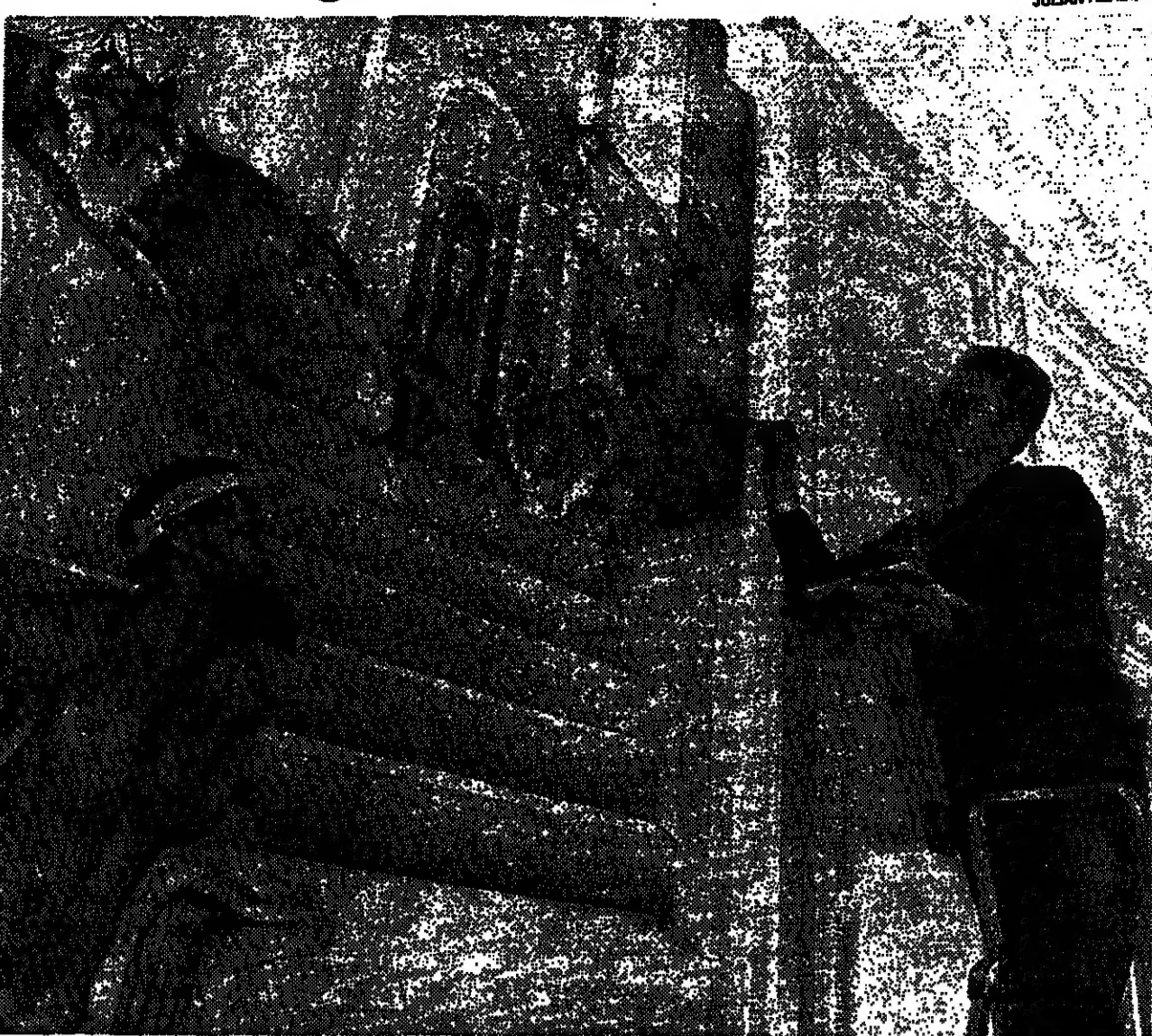
One of the studies looked at the amount of work required to make the tunnel safe again for public navigation and was carried out by the leading firm of engineers, the Ove Arup partnership. They carried out a detailed survey along the entire length of the tunnel and concluded that it could be repaired and made safe at a cost of £5.5m within three years.

The report concluded: "The Standedge tunnel is a major heritage structure and a monument to the Industrial Revolution where men toiled to create one of Britain's most significant engineering achievements."

Mr Glyn Walton, the engineer in charge of the survey, said that 60 per cent of the tunnel was lined in brick or stone and was "in remarkably good condition."

Artist brings classic touch to new hotel

JULIAN HERBERT



Jez Taylor, the artist, working on an interpretation of Lord Leighton's 'The Syracusan Bride leading the Wild Beasts to the Temple of Diana', a series of 19 panels in a 100ft colonnade at the £20 million Bath Spa Hotel, which opens on January 29 after being converted from an 1835 manor house. Mr Taylor, aged 38, of Cornwall, is taking 10 weeks to complete the work.

Barnardos receives donations from 1939

Barnardos the children's charity, has received three cheques sent in 1939 (Robin Young writes).

The cheques, posted by British expatriates in Shanghai, were intercepted by the Germans during the Second World War, held for years at the German Institute in Stuttgart, and then seized by the Americans. They were recently returned to the German federal archives and forwarded to Britain.

The cheques are for 10 shillings from Mr and Mrs L.C.M. Penberton, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; for £1 from Mr L.H. Lowford of the Custom House, Shanghai; and for £5 from Mr H. Macphail of Jardine Mathieson. The banks involved say they will honour the cheques at their present value. The £1 cheque would be worth about £19 today.

Officers bailed

Four members of the disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad were remanded on unconditional bail by Birmingham magistrates yesterday. Det Inspector Terence Mills, Det Constable Michael Quinn, and Det Sergeant David Ford and Anthony Ball are charged with perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Hoax charge

Colin Goodwin, aged 17, of Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, was bailed by Dublin district court on a charge of making a hoax bomb threat to American Delta Airlines.

Case dropped

Mr Ronald Smith, aged 30, of Stafford, has been cleared of careless driving after the suicide of John Heddle, MP, who was due to give evidence at his trial. The Crown Prosecution Service withdrew the charge.

Paper jobs cut

Ninety workers are to be made redundant at the Scott Paper Mill at Barrow, Cumbria.

Science chief

Sir Mark Richmond, FRS, aged 58, vice-chancellor and professor of molecular biology at Manchester University, has been made chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council.

School launches space business

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A secondary school in Kent is launching a commercial venture to pay for the largest privately funded astronomy and space observatory open to the public in the United Kingdom.

The enterprise, conceived at Canterbury High School, exploits holograms, especially made for the school, of the lunar rocks that the American astronaut Colonel James Irwin brought back to earth in July 1971 after the Apollo 15 space mission. The rocks are part of the collection that the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) keeps sealed in nitrogen-filled cabinets at its mission control

and astronaut training centre in Houston, Texas. The set of three-dimensional images were made last year by Sky Holographics, a specialist firm in laser technology at Tunbridge Wells, under an arrangement with Nasa, for a school project to mark the twentieth anniversary of the first moon landing.

The school has formed a company to sell copies of the holograms to schools and educational establishments in Britain and abroad.

Mr David Platts, a senior teacher, said the company, run by pupils and teachers, was established with help from the Department of Trade and

Industry. The money would help raise £20,000 to pay for the building and operation of an observatory and a 14in computer-controlled telescope, which is almost complete, in the grounds of the school.

It is scheduled for a formal opening next week by Colonel Irwin, who is in Canterbury to give a lecture on space exploration.

The creation of the observatory was directed by Mr Norman Walker, a professional astronomer formerly with the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

The observatory marks a further step in the use of space for education.

Aircraft crash research

Flying much safer than road travel

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

More people died on British roads in the first three months of last year than were killed in air crashes throughout the world during the whole year.

In spite of the deaths of 47 when a British Midland Boeing 737-400 crashed on the M1 last January, last year proved to be an average one for accidents involving big commercial aircraft, with 17 "hull losses" and just over 800 deaths. That compared with 1,178 deaths on British roads in the first quarter of last year.

Slightly more people died in air crashes last year than the average annual figure for the past 30 years. However, the number of flights increased dramatically, decreasing the trend. American safety specialists believe that there will be more

crashes as the number of flights increases. If aircraft continue to be lost at the present rate of 1.4 for every million departures, there would be 19 crashes this year, 21 in 1995 and 25 in 2000. Enormous effort is being made, therefore, to improve the safety record.

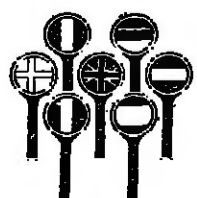
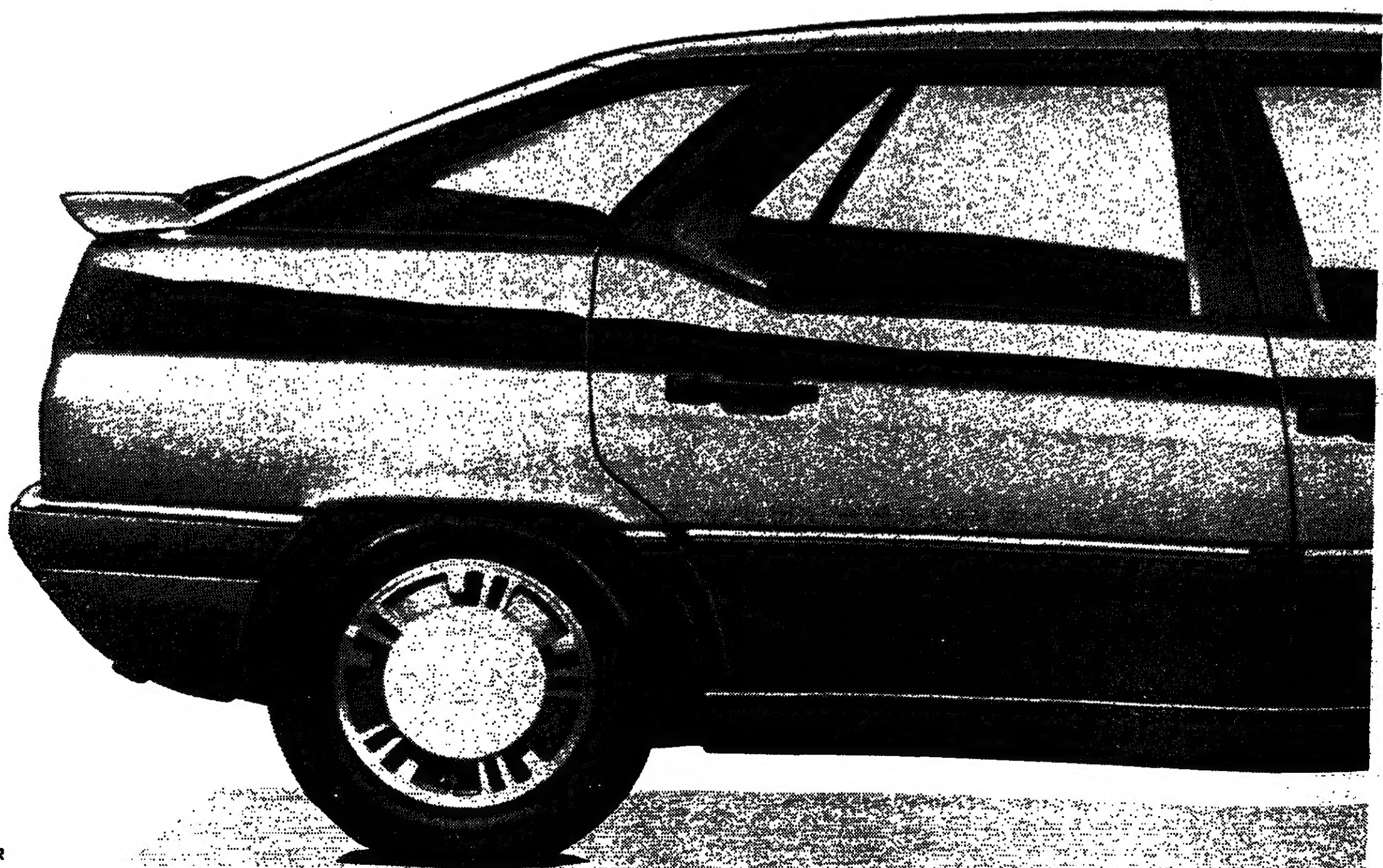
It has been calculated that about 70 per cent of fatal accidents in the past 30 years were caused to some extent by pilot error. Most airlines and manufacturers employ "human factor" specialists, such as psychologists and ergonomics experts, to study the way pilots react to cockpit layouts, to each other and to sudden pressures caused by in-flight failures.

Many are calling for pilots to sit an examination on human factors before

being granted a licence. The latest confidential report by the Royal Air Force's Institute of Aviation Medicine gives a number of examples of pilots who made mistakes either because the co-pilots would not challenge a decision taken by more experienced captains or of captains who refuse to believe juniors when errors are pointed out to them.

The Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme (Chirp) said in the report: "Events that seem almost incredible when written down in black and white do happen. The problem is that pilots don't stop being people when they get on to the flight deck; they take with them the bits of pride and prejudice that we all carry about in life."

THE CITROËN XM. EUROPEAN



CAR OF THE YEAR
1990

CAR FEATURED: TOP OF THE RANGE 3 LITRE V6 SE, £23,000. PRICES START FROM £13,700 FOR THE 2 LITRE. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. ALL MODELS RUN ON UNLEADED PETROL. ALL V6 MODELS ARE FITTED WITH A CATALYTIC CONVERTOR. FOR MORE

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Tax incentive demanded to reduce car pollution

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Pressure is growing on the Government to offer tax incentives to "green" motorists in its March Budget in spite of fears that cars converted to cleaner unleaded fuel could suffer costly damage.

Engineers and company car fleet managers are warning motorists who join the rush towards converting their cars or buying expensive clean-up equipment without proper safeguards that they could be heading for trouble.

Environmentalists want Britain to raise the speed of the drive against vehicle pollution by following the lead of the West German Government, which is offering tax rebates of up to £390 for motorists who buy cars with

pace of environmental improvement comes at a time when many motorists are struggling to understand the changes besieging the market. The biggest worry surrounds unleaded petrol in spite of the campaign mounted by the Government, motor manufacturers and oil companies.

The Automobile Association's headquarters was bombarded with calls yesterday from worried motorists who were told that using cheap conversions to unleaded petrol offered by "cowboy" mechanics could backfire by requiring repairs costing up to £1,000. Incorrect conversion of cars which need the lubricating lead additive, leads to valve wear and, eventually, engine failure.

Mr David Gardner, consultant to the Federation of Engine Remanufacturers, says garages are dealing with a big increase in repairs to cylinder heads and engine valves linked with the use of unleaded petrol in cars unsuitable for the new fuel. He blamed do-it-yourself enthusiasts and rogue garage owners giving incorrect advice.

Virtually all of the two million new cars coming on to the market annually can use unleaded immediately.

In another development, a leading Midlands-based fleet company, Fleet Management Services, is complaining that motorists who buy cars with exhaust-gas cleaning catalytic converters could face hefty bills, as one fill of ordinary unleaded petrol would ruin a catalytic converter.

Mr Geoff Cobley, managing director, is demanding that manufacturers attach mileage guarantees to the converters.

More than 300 chemical workers are being laid off because of the uptake of unleaded petrol. Associated Octel, at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, produces the fuel additive that injects lead into four-star petrol, but the company said that a drop in demand meant that job losses were necessary.

catalytic converters. Motorists who fit older cars with the equipment also qualify. The German regulations anticipate EC legislation that comes into force in 1992 and which will demand that all new cars are fitted with catalytic converters. These soak up 90 per cent of an engine's noxious emissions. The rebate is offered in an effort to cut pollution by 30 per cent.

The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "There is no reason why Britain should be standing still. If the market does not move quickly enough, like the Germans we could encourage motorists to buy cleaner cars ahead of the EC legislation by helping with the cost."

Yet the demand to force the

Home of the Once and Future King restored by farmer



The secrets of Pendragon Castle (above), where King Arthur is said to have been born and brought up, are being uncovered during careful repair work. Mr Raven Frankland, a

farmer in Ravenstonsdale, Cumbria, has almost completed the painstaking consolidation of the ruins of the castle built in the 12th century by Hugh de Morville, one of the

conspirators who murdered Thomas a Becket (Robin Young writes). Mr Frankland, who bought the castle for £525 in 1963, has been repairing the crumbling walls and towers. He has

dug out fallen masonry to reach the floor of the castle, exposing vaulted chambers and spiral staircases. Legend has it that the original castle was built by Uther Pendragon,

Arthur's father, who tried to divert the river Eden to form a moat, giving rise to the local rhyme: "Let Uther Pendragon do as he can, The river Eden will run as it ran."

Bridge death falls

Council's failure to act is criticized

By Peter Davenport

A coroner criticized a council yesterday for refusing to spend money on making safe a bridge which has claimed more than 40 lives in the last two decades.

Mr Michael Oakley was speaking at the opening of the inquest on the two latest victims of the 80ft high Valley Bridge in Scarborough.

Mr Stephen Jeffery, a British Rail trackman aged 23, and his daughter, Kelly-Ann Wilkinson, aged two, fell from the bridge on Saturday evening. Their identities were formally released by the police yesterday.

Mr Oakley said the tragedy happened in different circumstances from another incident at the bridge a few days earlier when a girl died during

celebrations for her seventeenth birthday.

The coroner criticized Scarborough Borough Council for the lack of safety measures on the bridge. He said he had been concerned for some time at the ease with which people could get on to the bridge and fall from it.

Mr Oakley said he had written to the council after two people died at the bridge last year.

"I find it extraordinary that the council currently maintain that public money will not be well spent on the bridge even, if only one life was saved."

He said that was a direct quotation from a letter he had received from the council. He added: "One life, in my mind, is more precious than limitless

public coffers." The coroner said he hoped the latest tragedy would make the council think again and erect guard rails on the bridge.

Mr Jeffery and the mother of his daughter, Miss Debra Wilkinson, of Whitby Road, Cloughton, Scarborough, had lived together until their engagement broke up a year ago. Mr Jeffery, of Queen's Terrace, Scarborough, looked after his daughter each weekend.

Mr John Trebble, the chief executive of Scarborough council, responded to the coroner's comments yesterday by saying: "The matter has previously been fully debated and it certainly has not been a question of cost acting as the overriding determinant of the

council." While it was true that the parapets on the bridge were low and there had been proposals to double their height, it would still be perfectly feasible for a determined person to scale them.

The council rejected an £80,000 scheme to raise the height of the parapets last September. Mr Trebble said: "Every death is a tragedy and this is a situation which is almost impossible to provide answers for."

British Telecom has turned down an appeal from the local Samaritans group, who wanted a telephone helpline to be provided at the bridge. It said such a telephone would be regularly vandalized.

The inquest was adjourned until a date to be fixed later.

Relics of early polar exploration for sale

Photographs and other memorabilia vividly evoking the perilous early days of polar exploration in the 1920s are expected to make a total of £15,000 at Christie's, South Kensington, on February 8.

The material documents the flights of Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, and Lincoln Ellsworth, the American, in 1925-6. Both men nearly lost their lives during the first unsuccessful flight to reach the North Pole in Dornier flying boats in 1925 and were forced to land on an ice flow 136 miles from their destination.

Among highlights will be a specially made board game with instructions that it be played over the Pole (estimate £5,000 to £8,000).

Amundsen discovered the South Pole in 1911 and and

had earlier navigated the North-west passage. He disappeared on a flight to rescue an Italian explorer returning from the North Pole in 1928.

Ellsworth was born in 1880. After his Polar success, he undertook a trans-arctic sub

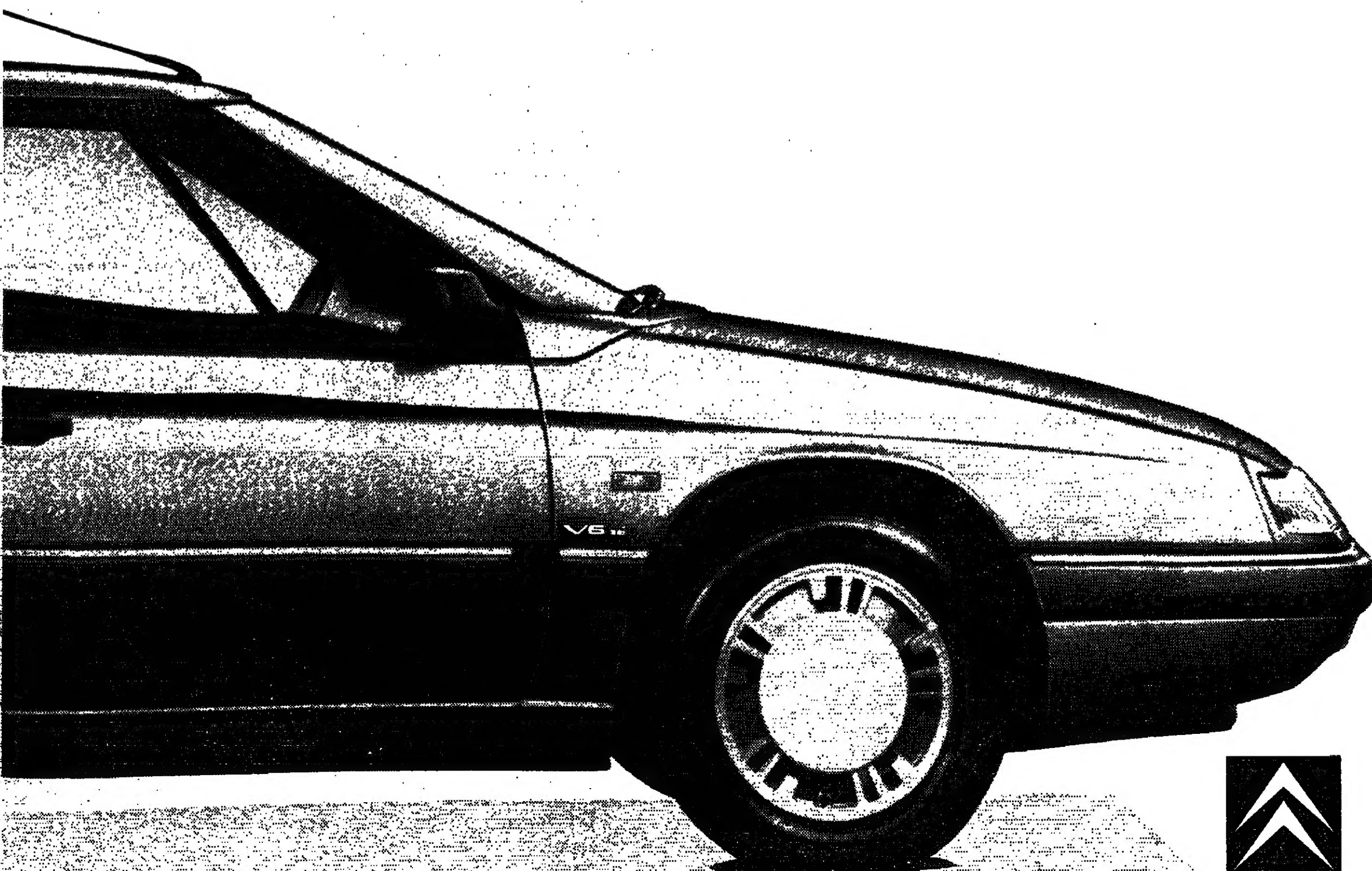
SALE ROOM

John Shaw

marine expedition in 1931 and flew 2,300 miles across the Antarctic in 1935.

A group of medals including the DFM and Bar won by Squadron Leader "Ginger" Lacey, one of the most successful pilots in the Battle of Britain, who died last May, will be sold by Sotheby's at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, on September 15.

CAR OF THE YEAR, 1990.



The Community Charge.

How some disabled people can pay less.

From April the Community Charge will replace the domestic rates.

Almost everyone aged 18 or over will have to register and pay.

But not every disabled person will have to pay the full amount.

Community Charge Benefit could reduce their bill.

If you're now on Housing Benefit most Councils will work out what you can get without your needing to make a separate claim. (Check your bill when you get it.)

If you're on Income Support, but not Housing Benefit, you should have received a claim form from the D.S.S.

Others on low incomes might get help too.

Anyone who thinks they need to claim Community Charge Benefit should send off the coupon for a claim form.

And for some disabled people help will be provided through Transitional Relief. Claim forms are available by filling in this coupon.

To get a lower bill from the start it's important you claim now.

THE COMMUNITY CHARGE. HOW TO PAY LESS.

**N
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Please send claim form(s) for a reduced Community Charge bill to:

Name _____

Address _____

P.Code _____

Tick if you are getting:

☐

Housing Benefit

☐

Income Support

Send or take this coupon to your local borough, district or City council. Mark the envelope "Community Charge Reductions".

**M
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*Councils set
Community Charges.
Bills coming soon.*

**A
P
R
I
L**

*Have you
checked your
benefit entitlement
on your bill?*

*IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL, LOOK IN THE PHONE BOOK OR ASK AT A LIBRARY OR CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THIS INFORMATION APPLIES TO ENGLAND. SIMILAR BENEFIT ARRANGEMENTS APPLY IN SCOTLAND AND WALES BUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL RELIEF DIFFER IN WALES.

El Salvador President admits Army killed priests

From Charles Bremner, New York, and Susan Ellicott, Washington

Members of the military committed the massacre of six leading Jesuit priests in El Salvador last November, President Cristiani has announced.

The killings of Father Ignacio Ellacuria, director of the country's top university, and his colleagues in the midst of a guerrilla offensive were widely believed to have been the work of a right-wing death squad linked to the military.

They provoked an international outcry and brought heavy pressure on Señor Cristiani's American-backed administration to track down the culprits.

After an investigation assisted by US experts and, since last week, by detectives from Scotland Yard, Señor Cristiani said a judicial commission had "determined that there was involvement of some elements of the armed forces".

The announcement by Señor Cristiani looks set to dampen expected calls from Congress in the approaching new session for an end to US military aid to the country.

Congressional leaders and human rights groups welcomed the statement as a crucial step towards democracy in El Salvador but emphasized they would reserve full praise until the implicated military members had been tried.

"We have not been impressed with the effectiveness of the justice system in El Salvador and this will be a real test of it," said Mr Lee Hamilton, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Members of the Democratic Congress had threatened to press for the aid to be cut unless Señor Cristiani made

progress on bringing to justice those responsible for the killings last November before the start of the new session on January 23. Washington provides El Salvador with aid worth \$1 million (£610,000) a day.

The executive director of a human rights group also welcomed the announcement but was concerned whether soldiers would ever be brought to justice.

"This is a landmark development in El Salvador," said Mr Aryeh Neier, the executive director of Human Rights Watch. "It's exceptionally encouraging that the Salvadoran Government itself is willing to acknowledge the responsibility of its own armed forces for the killings."

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, a senior staff officer, said two officers and 45 soldiers of the Atlacal battalion had been recalled to the capital and restricted to barracks for questioning, but he gave no further details.

The Atlacal battalion is a black-uniformed commando-type unit trained by the Americans in the techniques of guerrilla war. It led much of the counter-offensive against the guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front which attacked San Salvador and other cities in November.

The Salvadoran military has long been held to be closely involved in the death squads which in the early 1980s massacred tens of thousands of citizens whom they suspected of sympathizing with the left-wing opposition movement.

Pressure from the US curbed their excesses in recent years, but no officer has been convicted of a rights crime.

Defrocked minister held over sacrificial murders



Mr Jeffrey Lundgren, the defrocked minister accused of the ritual murders, being taken to the San Diego County Jail. His wife and their son were also held.



An arsenal of weapons was found in the motel room of the Lundgrens, left. The bodies of the Avery family, right, were discovered in an Ohio barn last week.

Cult feud theory in slaughter of family

From Charles Bremner New York

A defrocked minister and his wife and son were yesterday charged in Ohio with the murders of a family of five in what police alleged was a sacrificial ritual linked to a feud between rival religious sects.

Mr Jeffrey Lundgren, his wife Alice and their son Damon, aged 19, were tracked down to a motel near San Diego as they attempted to lead a small band of followers across the border into the "wilderness" in Mexico.

A national manhunt was launched for Mr Lundgren after police found the bodies of Dennis Avery, his wife, and their three daughters in an Ohio barn last week. Police said the Averages had been shot in a sacrificial ritual last April before the cult members set off to be "cleansed" in the wilderness, where they intended to search for a holy "golden sword".

Mr Lundgren broke away from the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, an offshoot of the Mormon Church, three years ago and founded a small sect with about 30 adherents.

Last year he declared himself a prophet as his followers accumulated weapons in preparation for what police claimed was an attack on the Reorganized Church.

A girl, aged 14, whose mother belonged to the cult, said that, among other targets, the group had planned an attack on the Kirtland Historic Temple, a church.

Ten other church followers have also been charged.

The Lundgren sect was one of a string of bizarre cults to spring up in recent years after a period of relative quiet since the mystical and quasi-religious groups of the late 1960s and 1970s, whose leaders included Charles Manson.

Bush seeks to soothe Latin American leaders

From Charles Bremner New York

The United States yesterday sought to defuse its quarrel with Colombia over an anti-drug patrol by American warships. The dispute illustrates the indignation in Latin America over the invasion of Panama.

However popular it was in the US and among middle-class Panamanians, the American invasion has once again unleashed the spectre of the bullying *yanquis*, a feared and hated stereotype which has deep roots in Latin-American history.

At the weekend senior White House officials began a campaign to soothe raw nerves throughout the region. Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Deputy Secretary of State, for example, assured Nicaragua that it was "highly unlikely" to be invaded by American forces as Panama was.

Colombia balked at the US naval operation, which was planned some time ago, after local opposition groups depicted it as a blockade reminiscent of past US actions—the 1913 operation that led to the

creation of Panama out of Colombian territory, for instance.

President Bush last Friday acknowledged the damage the Panama invasion has inflicted on ties in the region, but said he wanted local leaders to understand that it was not a return to gunboat diplomacy.

But local anger has hardly been assuaged by the news that Mr Bush

Washington (Renter) — The Rev Jesse Jackson, the US politician, alleged yesterday that the United States had killed at least 1,200 Panamanian civilians last month, saying this was more people than the Chinese Government had killed in Tiananmen Square.

has chosen Vice-President Dan Quayle as his fence-mending emissary later this month.

Amid their euphoria over capturing General Noriega, Administration officials are making light of the condemnation that "Operation Just Cause" has provoked from Latin-American states. A Bush aide said on television that "they've got to

make a fuss, but privately they're behind us". This view is, however, being challenged by many American experts and Latin-American officials, who see it as more like a British stunt aimed at bolstering Mr Bush's standing in public opinion at home than a daring rescue of democracy.

Newspapers around the region have noted that, according to US drug experts, General Noriega ceased two years ago to play any important role in the flow of cocaine into North America, and that the operation of the Panama Canal had never been disrupted until after the invasion.

The American diplomats who now face the task of soothing Latin-American pride, have been angered by what they see as the gratuitously offensive tactics employed by the invading US Army, including the initial indiscriminate bombing which cost the lives of several hundred Panamanian civilians.

It emerged at the weekend that Colombia has revoked its decision to allow the Americans to instal

radar stations on its territory to track drug planes. The Colombians fear that the US might use the Panama operation as a precedent to pursue suspected traffickers.

The invasion has clearly set back co-operation in the drug war. It has also cast doubt on next month's planned drug summit in Colombia.

But, politically, the most immediate damage may have been in Nicaragua, where next month's elections will mark the culmination of years of American and international pressure on the Sandinista leadership to test its legitimacy through the ballot box.

The images of thousands of tall white gringo soldiers killing Panamanian citizens have proved a godsend for President Ortega and his Government because they live up to all the worst caricatures of *yanqui* imperialism, and have given a timely boost to the Sandinista effort to depict the opposition as just so many US-financed stooges.

In Nicaragua and all around the region, commentators have been pointing out the apparent double

standards under which Washington invaded one country, claiming the death of a single US citizen as justification, while it has continued to finance rebel forces who have killed several of its citizens in Nicaragua.

But, while some American diplomats are agonizing over the aftermath, Administration officials are taking a hard-line view, arguing that the US can probably afford to ignore the emotions of Latin America now that the East-West contest has all but evaporated from the region.

Although US indifference may be valid in South and Central America, a region crippled by permanent economic crisis and heavily dependent on US benevolence, however, it may prove dangerous when applied to Mexico. President Salinas had done more in two years to mend fences with Washington than any Mexican President for decades, but with anti-US public feeling now running high, he will be obliged to keep some patriotic distance from the *yanquis*.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Rocket attack on prince's home

Tokyo (Renter) — Home-made rockets were fired last night towards the residence of Prince Hitachi, the younger brother of Emperor Akihito, in what appeared to be a left-wing attack against the Imperial Family, police said. They said no damage or injuries were reported. At least two spent rockets were found, one on a road and another in a garden of a house a few hundred yards away. It is thought that the rockets were launched from a car parked on vacant ground several hundred yards away.

A similar incident occurred at the same time in Kyoto in western Japan, the police said. Again, no damage or injuries were reported. Earlier yesterday Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, named a government committee to prepare for Emperor Akihito's formal accession in November this year.

Abu Nidal sidelined

The extremist Abu Nidal organization has been effectively put out of business, Palestinian sources in Tripoli, the group's home base — claimed yesterday (Michael Evans writes). Since last month, Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Khalil al-Bannaz, has been under *de facto* house arrest in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. Yesterday it was said that leading figures in the group had been thrown out of their offices and banned from entering their training camp. Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has been forced to move against Abu Nidal in order to gain favour with the other Arab states, in particular Egypt. Colonel Gaddafi has also indicated that he wants better relations with the United States and Britain.

'Kidnappers' named

Jerusalem — The United States knows the identity of the Arab kidnappers of Colonel William Higgins, the US officer serving with United Nations forces in Lebanon who was allegedly murdered last August in retaliation for Israel's abduction of a Hezbollah leader, *Ha'aretz*, an Israeli newspaper, claimed yesterday (Richard Owen writes). According to the report, Colonel Higgins was taken by two Hezbollah gunmen, named as Mohammed Rihai and Mustafa Marwi, to a Hezbollah camp near Beirut called Arak-Kra'a, where he was interrogated and tortured.

Police abuse alleged

Safeguards against torture and ill-treatment in police custody are inadequate in Austria, Amnesty International says in a report published today (Michael Knipe writes). The human rights organization says it has received reports of 128 separate incidents of alleged abuse involving 201 people in the past four years. The allegations of ill-treatment range from slaps to the head to near suffocation and burnings with lighted cigarettes. The organization urged Austria, which has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture, to put the convention's provisions into practice.

UK ship in Argentina

Buenos Aires (Renter) — The first British merchant ship to visit Argentina since the 1982 Falklands War weighed anchor yesterday with a cargo of refrigerated meat and fruit, wool and leather. The Churchill, a container vessel, had unloaded machinery, steel goods and 12 passengers on Sunday. The ship's arrival followed agreements Britain and Argentina signed in October to scrap restrictions on trade and transport. Last week Britain lifted restrictions against Argentine ships, permitting them to enter the 150-mile military protection zone around the Falkland Islands.

Ski resorts feel pinch

Paris — With many French ski slopes still without the faintest covering of snow, the beleaguered winter sports trade is demanding prompt government action to avert financial disaster (Philip Jacobson writes). The industry, suffering a delayed start for the third consecutive year, has been told that M Olivier Stirn, the Minister for Tourism, is considering requests to declare particularly hard-hit resorts such as the Haute-Savoie and Hautes-Pyrénées regions, zones of natural disaster, enabling holiday concerns to claim the cost of paying employees on their insurance policies.

Crowe supports US cuts

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Washington's refusal to negotiate naval cuts or the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons from surface ships was publicly questioned yesterday by the man who led the US military until his retirement last September.

"If some naval reductions can get us more than they are worth, we ought to be willing to consider talking (with the Soviet Union)," Admiral William Crowe, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview.

There should not be "anything sacrosanct" from negotiated reductions as long as the US was willing to say no if it did not get what it wants, he

told the *The Washington Post*. Admiral Crowe's position contrasts starkly with that of the White House and the Pentagon, which argue that limiting US naval strength would jeopardize the security of far-flung allies.

At the Malta summit in December, President Bush refused to discuss either naval arms constraints in general or President Gorbachev's specific proposal that the superpowers should eliminate tactical nuclear weapons from their ships.

However, that proposal has clearly sparked a public debate.

Admiral Crowe suggested

the US could take advantage of Soviet anxiety about its overwhelming naval superiority to extract big concessions on strategic arms disputes. Banning tactical nuclear weapons at sea should particularly interest the US because it would protect American aircraft carriers.

Admiral Crowe argued forcefully for increased military spending by the Reagan Administrations, but said he was now convinced that the Soviet military threat had diminished. US naval cuts were likely anyway, so it would be better to get something in exchange from the Russians.

Japan set to lift sanctions

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, will tell West European leaders he meets during his visit this week that Japan is ready to lift the economic sanctions it imposed on China after the Tiananmen Square massacre last June.

Mr Kaifu, who will speak in Berlin today of Tokyo's new diplomatic vision, is eager to lift the freeze on aid to China and end the diplomatic chill that has affected Tokyo as well as Peking.

Of the leading industrial powers, Japan responded most slowly and most mildly to China's brutal suppression of student protesters. It followed

its Western allies in freezing aid, but it now fears that ties with China will shrivel completely if dealings are not revived soon.

Japan feels that China has suffered enough, and Mr Kaifu will be trying to explain to Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and other European leaders his motives for *rapprochement*.

Japanese officials fear that China's economy is in danger. But it also fears that Washington's more conciliatory attitude towards China, highlighted by the visits of Mr Brent Scowcroft, the US National Security Adviser, to Peking last year, has left Japan exposed to criticism

from China for adhering to the sanctions.

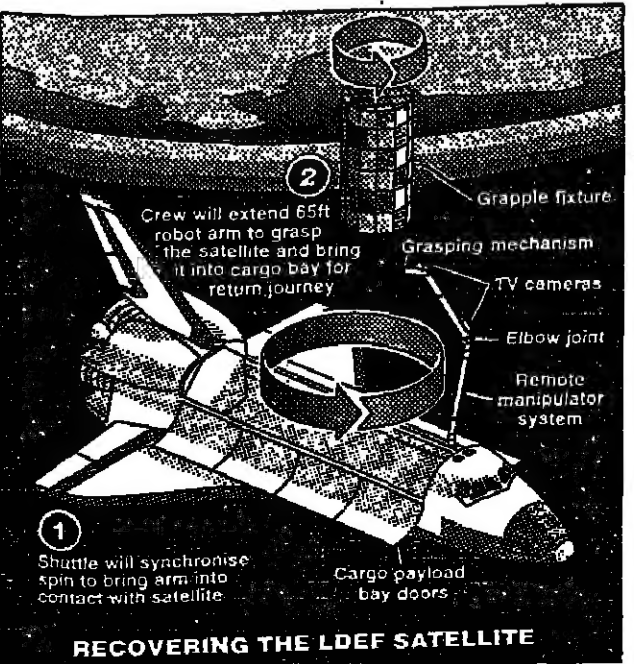
According to a report in the *Mainichi Shimbun*, a leading Japanese daily, Tokyo will resume talks soon on a six-year loan to China of \$10 billion yen (£3.2 billion).

The newspaper quoted Mr Kaifu as telling government officials: "If the sanctions continue beyond this point and China becomes isolated, this may bring about instability."

PEKING: A Chinese central-bank official said yesterday the World Bank was studying resuming loans to China, suspended after the June crackdown, and credits could be restored soon.

Shuttle mission to retrieve satellite is delayed

From Martin Fletcher, Washington



Nasa will make another attempt today to launch the most ambitious space shuttle flight since the Challenger disaster, after low clouds forced a last-minute postponement yesterday.

The prime objective of the 10-day mission is to retrieve from space a six-year-old bus-sized satellite which is said to be a "treasure trove" of scientific and technological information vital to the construction of spacecraft. If not rescued, the satellite will begin falling to earth in March and will break up on re-entry. It is now 200 miles from earth and falling at a rate of half a mile a day.

The mission will also equal the longest shuttle flight as Nasa works towards 16-day and ultimately 28-day mis-

sions that would greatly expand the shuttle's usefulness.

The launch was originally scheduled for December 18, but was postponed three times due to delays in overhauling the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The five-man crew in the shuttle Columbia were within six minutes of blasting off early yesterday morning, and 524,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen and oxygen had been pumped into its tanks, before the launch was aborted.

On the second day of the mission, Columbia will put a US Navy communications satellite into orbit, and on the fourth day, using a 65-foot mechanical arm, it will attempt to seize the failing 30-foot-long satellite and haul it into its cargo bay. The sat-

ellite, known as the Long Duration Exposure Facility, which weighs more than 10 tons, will push up the shuttle's landing weight to 229,500lb, 10,000 lb more than for any previous landing.

The satellite was put into orbit in April 1984, packed with 57 experiments and designed to test the performance of various materials when exposed to radiation and extreme temperatures.

It was due to be retrieved after a year, but was stranded by shuttle flight scheduling problems and the 1986 Challenger disaster.

"We just can't place too much importance on this flight. That vehicle is invaluable because it's chock full of every material we use on space flight," Mr Al Pennington, a

flight director at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, said. Scientists believe data from the satellite will be crucial in designing NASA's \$32 billion (£20 billion) space station, Freedom.

"We could go to space for five days at a time and infinitum and it's not going to get us to Mars and it's not going to get us to the Moon and it's not going to get us a permanently-manned space station," Miss Marsha Ivins, one of the crew, said.

PARIS: The launch of a West European Ariane rocket carrying an observation satellite has been postponed indefinitely because of a fault in the commercial Spot-2 probe, used to register photographic images of the Earth's surface, officials said yesterday.

Ceausescu diehards rally to standard of feckless playboy

From Roger Boyes
Sibiu, Romania

"Kill the traitors! Fight for your homeland!" read the Securitate leaflets dropped from the low, red Transylvanian gables of Sibiu. But most were trampled into the dust by the morning. There was gunfire too, just audible above the band at the Imperial Romanilor Hotel.

How many Securitate men are at large?

Nobody in the revolutionary leadership is certain, but it is plain that Sibiu is where they are staging a last, bitter fight. In Bucharest, there are nervous shots at midnight; in Sibiu, once the provincial seat of Nicolae Ceausescu, son of the dictator, there is still organized, if thinly spread resistance.

Securitate snipers have crippled night life and, according to some reports, they have seized people who have "collaborated" with the local revolutionary administration.

The Army estimates that about 300 died in the Sibiu uprising and another 300 were injured. Colonel Victor Neghinu, of the infantry school, says that the arrested Securitate men were taken to their barracks and confined in an emptied swimming pool. "They were

easier to guard that way," he said. "Now they will face military tribunals and be given the appropriate sentences."

The Securitate have been grouping around Sibiu because of Nicolae Ceausescu. When his father decided to give him political experience, he was first made chief of the Young Communist League, then promoted to First Secretary of Sibiu, a fortified Transylvanian township.

The Securitate units were strengthened, both as a bodyguard for the "crown prince", and as a command centre last

● Officials fear that desperate agents will shoot their way in to try to rescue Nicu ●

the Hungarian and German minorities of Transylvania got out of hand. Nicu, the most feckless of the clan, is now a rallying point for the Securitate resistance. He was stabbed shortly after his arrest and is now under guard in the Bucharest military hospital.

It is feared that Securitate agents will shoot their way in and rescue the wounded playboy. Only five of the

Ceausescu clan, all distant relatives, are still free.

Nicu Ceausescu's arrest was wholly in character: an elegant woman in a fur coat was stopped on the way to Bucharest's domestic airport. There was a gust of Channel No 5 as she opened her window. The man on the back seat, but pulled over his face, was her lover, she told the soldiers; nobody important. But Nicu was recognized and roughly seized.

Nicu frequented the metropolitan pleasures of Bucharest to Sibiu — which boasts only two acceptable restaurants — but he made himself comfortable. His former office is now full of slightly blasé boys with automatic rifles.

It is the only place in town that did not have a portrait of his father. Instead, in the drawers, there is the boyish clutter of a man of 39 who never grew up: football pennants, a girl's pants, a collapsible lung-fu stick favoured by Bruce Lee.

His Sibiu villa is more revealing. There is a separate guest house for his girlfriends from Bucharest. Roaming the gardens are Alsatian dogs that used to be fed with Sibiu-salami, a Romanian delicacy almost unobtainable in the shops. There is also a swimming pool, two satellite antennae — he liked to watch international sports programmes on Sky — a library of videos and a cellar

of wine. Broken glass crackles underfoot, the video recorder has been removed (they fetch 15,000 lei on the Sibiu black market — \$2,000 at the official rate of exchange), but there has been surprisingly little looting.

The army commander smokes a Kent cigarette but continues to keep a finger on his trigger as I plough through the cupboards. Silk, pyjamas, dozens of hats — Nicu's hairdresser is missing — leather boots, and German hunting rifles.

The furnishing, in common with all the Ceausescu villas, is not so much bad taste, as no-taste. Plainly, the Ceausescus simply gave their estate managers broad guidelines and the hapless courtiers did what they could.

Various "luxury furnishing" companies in Austria and elsewhere were contacted by telex and lorries brought the supplies. If the result was a bit heavy on mahogany cupboards, velvet armchairs, chintz curtains and ornamental chandeliers, nobody seemed to object. It was the most expensive available, and therefore the best.

The personal touches, such as Elena's golden bathroom taps and Nicu's bedroom refinements, are obvious.

Nicu is an unlikely hero, even for the most dedicated of fugitive Securitate men. The memoirs of Romania's foreign

spy chief, General Ion Pacepa, now serialized in the press, depicted him as a pampered child intent on instant gratification.

He poured whisky down the face of Mr Stefan Andrei, the former Foreign Minister, and cruised around town — whether Bucharest or Sibiu — picking up girls who did not dare to refuse. He took bribes (including some from the Orthodox Church hierarchy) as a matter of course.

Is the Securitate really fighting to the death for this man? It is probably not as

● Nicu is remembered as a spoiled child who demanded instant gratification ●

simple as that. There were perhaps 20,000 full-time Securitate officers, a praetorian guard of 1,000, an anti-terrorist unit of 1,000 and up to 500,000 informers. There were factory units and Securitate men in the Army; it had seeped into every institution.

Only a few of these officers appear to be fanatical enough to fight on in the name of the Ceausescu family. But it

would take only a few to de-rail the revolution.

The new leadership is consolidating fast in Bucharest but the threads that link it to the provinces are thin indeed. In places such as Sibiu, the sudden conversion of the Communist Party to the cause of the revolution looks less credible than in Bucharest, if only because it is less subject to control.

Only the Army is trusted absolutely. The people bring bread and wine to the tanks parked in Sibiu's main square for the heroic drivers. "The Army will not return to barracks until the last terrorist is arrested," a general said last week.

That gives the Army almost carte blanche. It is the Army, after all, which defines how many Securitate men are at large. It is said that Army counter-intelligence officers want the campaign against the Securitate to be eased. That would allow them to finish out sympathizers with the fugitive agents. As soon as Securitate men start printing leaflets, as in Sibiu, it should be possible to expose whole networks of opposition. The gunfire rattles on sporadically throughout the night. And the time blasting out of the Sibiu hotel is an old Janis Joplin number, with the line: "Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose".

Hearings to be televised

Securitate agents put on public trial

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The interim Romanian Government yesterday began putting on public trial members of the pro-Ceausescu Securitate forces who violently opposed last month's revolution in which the dictator was overthrown.

A senior member of the ruling National Salvation Front announced that hearings had started at special tribunals in the south Transylvanian city of Sibiu. Sibiu was a stronghold of Nicolae Ceausescu's favoured son Nicu, who is due to face trial once investigations into his past are complete.

In keeping with the central role the media played in the revolution, these hearings — before panels of three military officers and two civilian judges — will be televised and open to the local and foreign press. Hundreds of people accused of being Securitate agents are expected to face trial but no official estimate of the number captured has been released.

The announcement of the trials was made by Mr Aurel Munteanu, head of Romanian television and radio, who fielded strong criticism of the alleged political role being played by the 145-member National Salvation Front when he gave the first weekly press briefing on the progress of the revolution.

At one stage, his voice strained by fatigue, Mr Munteanu angrily dismissed claims by some of the seven new political parties here that the front was seeking to bolster its position in elections which he reaffirmed would take place in April. Some politicians have been urging their postponement.

The speed with which the temporary administration has launched the trials of its opponents has impressed foreign diplomats. Front leaders are believed anxious to avoid a recurrence of the allegations of summary justice that greeted the trial and execution of the Ceausescus.

Mr Munteanu emphasized that, since their executions,

the death penalty had been abolished and the maximum penalty facing those before the new tribunals would be life imprisonment. Each accused would be allowed to pick a lawyer and be provided with legal representation if unable to find someone willing to take on the case.

Referring to the Securitate men as "terrorists", Mr Munteanu became flustered at his inability to say how many had been detained. Initial estimates of arrests — like those of deaths, first put at 60,000 and now thought to number closer to 7,000 — are expected to prove too high.

Many of the men facing trial will be accused of having shot civilians in cold blood but

suggestions that the front — a loose grouping of former Communists, writers and military men — was denying newly formed parties access to Romanian television, which is still playing a central part in the revolutionary process.

"The front is not a political organization," he insisted. "It is a moral and legal platform. We are not a political party." The force of his denials did not mollify Romanian reporters at the conference who have been angered at the front's decision to stand in the elections.

Mr Munteanu, as inexperienced as any of his new colleagues at handling question-and-answer sessions with the world's press, expressed frustration at the criticism of the front's performance by students and politicians. "They are complaining at us after only two weeks when there was 45 years of waiting," he said, adding that the country's temporary rulers had inherited a society whose framework had been destroyed.

Independent observers believe that the front has invited the growing wave of criticism by insisting on fighting the election in its own right rather than having its members join the new parties. Its critics claim the front is unrepresentative.

One Romanian journalist challenged Mr Munteanu to explain where he and other members of the ruling body were during the heaviest fighting in Bucharest on December 21 and 22. He also accused the front of "exporting Romanian children" by allowing the foreign adoption of orphans to resume.

The ill-tempered briefing was the clearest public indication yet of how quickly the atmosphere has soured since the heady days of Ceausescu's downfall. This deterioration is likely to continue until the new elections which, it is hoped, will remove suspicions that power is being usurped by people who remain closet Communist sympathizers.

man, blamed poor implementation of good decisions for many of Ceausescu's woes. "There is no dynamism, there is no sign of improvement in the trade structure, there is no technological progress," he said at a meeting on the eve of the Comecon heads of government summit in Sofia. "And so we believe there must be radical measures to restructure the mechanism of co-operation."

Mr Medgyessy said that for



Ruins of revolution: Romanians, dwarfed by the shell of the national library, loading their furniture on to a lorry as they leave homes destroyed by the recent fighting in Bucharest.

Elena's mother abandoned as dictators fled

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

While the dragnet continues for those few members of the hated Ceausescu clan still unaccounted for, the eldest survivor lies in the intensive care unit of a Bucharest hospital still apparently unaware that last month's revolution took place.

Yesterday I was one of the few foreign journalists permitted to visit Mrs Elena Petrescu, aged 102, the mother of Elena Ceausescu, Romania's former first lady, who was widely regarded as the evil driving force behind some of her husband's most savage excesses.

Mrs Paula Stan, a senior nurse at the city's Emergency Hospital, said: "We have told her that her daughter has been executed and that there has been a revolution, but frankly, I am not sure she was able to take any of it in. She is senile and has now fallen into a coma as you can see. We expect her to die at any time."

Mrs Petrescu, the wife of an innkeeper, was found in her bed in the Ceausescu's opulent residence after her daughter and son-in-law fled in a helicopter in a vain attempt to escape the fury of the people. "It was typical of them that she had been completely abandoned without a nurse or anybody. Even vital medical equipment the needed was not functioning," Mrs Stan said.

When the revolutionary forces discovered the old woman alone in the deserted residence, a doctor was dispatched and she was driven to the hospital in an ambulance.

She now lies in a bed close to wards where some of the civilians most grotesquely wounded by Ceausescu's Securitate gunmen are recovering. A soldier with an AK-47 assault rifle sits on guard.

The Romanian authorities, apparently taken aback by foreign criticism of the brutal fashion in which the Ceausescus were dispatched, are anxious to show that Mrs Petrescu is being treated humanely despite the deep loathing felt for her by most of the 23 million Romanians.

"We are treating her just like any other patient and doing our best to keep her alive for as long as possible. But as anyone can see, she is a very old and sick woman," Mr Radu Barascanu, a hospital official, said. "She would soon have died if we had not found her and brought her here."

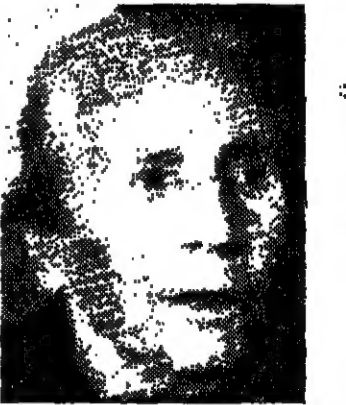
For those who have not visited Romania since last month's uprising, it is hard to imagine the depth of the revulsion felt by the people for the Ceausescu clan, some 40 members of which were given various jobs and sinecures in

the old administration. For that reason, many of the patients in the hospital have not been told Mrs Petrescu's true identity.

The feeling against her daughter, likened in the Western media to a witch-like cross between Lady Macbeth and Lucrezia Borgia is everywhere to be seen in the graffiti scrawled on the walls of post-revolutionary Bucharest. Many of the slogans say "Down with the illiterate", a reference to the claim that despite her string of titles, she never completed her secondary education.

It is impossible to find a single Romanian not delighted at her execution. Many love now to refer to her dismissively as "Leana" in mockery of her peasant origins. Her father is described as a ploughman turned innkeeper who ended up a drunkard-like Nicu, her favourite son, one of those clan members now awaiting trial.

"Because Mrs Petrescu is so old and near to death, we do not need to give her any special protection," Mrs Stan said. Nobody in the hospital was prepared to discuss where



Mrs Petrescu. Unaware of her daughter's execution, she would be buried when she eventually dies.

As the daily disclosures about the Ceausescus' affluent and corrupt lifestyle have continued to fill the newly liberated Romanian media (queues for the daily papers in sub-zero temperatures far outstretch those for scarce food resources) Elena Ceausescu has emerged as even more evil than her husband.

The latest edition of the *Romanian News*, a weekly, mocked her cruelly as a "careful and sweet mother" before disclosing that she salted away hundreds of thousands of pounds in special bank accounts for her three children Valentin, Zoe and Nicu, whom she was grooming for the succession.

"The fact she was a woman makes her cruelty even worse and harder to bear," explained one Bucharest student.

Hungary urges three-way group to modernize Comecon

Vienna (AFP) — Hungary has proposed the establishment of a three-way grouping with Poland and Czechoslovakia as the first step to modernizing the Eastern bloc common market, Comecon.

Mr Peter Medgyessy, Hungary's Vice-Premier, said in an interview yesterday there was nothing to be gained from the total abolition of Comecon, but the present organization was obsolete.

Blaming the Soviet Union for Comecon's problems, Mr

Medgyessy said it was no longer capable of serving either the development of its member states or the integration of the Central and East European region. The system was dominated by the Soviet Union because of her political and economic power.

Soviet officials agreed that parts of Comecon are obsolete and needed radical changes but said the Soviet Union was against dismantling the pact.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokes-

man, blamed poor implementation of good decisions for many of Ceausescu's woes.

"There is no dynamism, there is no sign of improvement in the trade structure, there is no technological progress," he said at a meeting on the eve of the Comecon heads of government summit in Sofia. "And so we believe there must be radical measures to restructure the mechanism of co-operation."

Mr Medgyessy said that for

geographical, economic, developmental and political reasons, the rational course of action seemed to be to form a Polish-Czechoslovak-Hungarian integration unit as the first step towards a new co-operation.

The "myth of brotherhood" built on raw material and energy imports from the Soviet Union and exports of the manufacturing industry and agricultural products in exchange was parallel to applying a rigid quota system

and bureaucratic plan co-ordination, he added.

This had paralysed competition and put dampers on technical and technological development.

Mr Vaclav Klaus, the Czechoslovakian Finance Minister, said last week there was no reason for Comecon to exist.

He said that Czechoslovakia would propose the abolition of all agreements concerning exchange rates within Comecon and would

quit the organization if its demands were refused.

Mr Marcin Swiecicki, the Polish Foreign Trade Minister, said on Friday that the organization should be replaced by a less rigid set-up.

Mr Aurel Munteanu, a spokesman for Romania's ruling National Salvation Front, told a news conference that Comecon "has never functioned properly, and it is not functioning properly now, either". It has to change if it is to have any chance of survival.

Reformed East bloc states race to improve relations with Israel

From Richard Owen
Jerusalem

After years of being shunned internationally for its handling of Arab unrest in the occupied territories, Israel is basking in the glow of what officials here call "enhanced legitimacy" as delegations from the newly democratized countries of Eastern Europe attempt to improve or restore ties.

"Attitudes to Israel have become an indicator of how far the new East European governments have moved from the discredited old regimes," Dr Yossi Olmert, director of the Government Press Office, said yesterday.

"Look at Czechoslovakia: one of President Havel's first statements talked of improving links with both Israel and the Vatican. Change in Eastern Europe is the best news Israel has had for a long time. We are no longer isolated."

Yesterday a high-level Czechoslovak delegation arrived in Israel for talks on resuming ties which — as in the case of all Soviet bloc countries except Romania —



Mr Gyula Horn: In Israel preparing way for a visit by his Prime Minister.

were broken off during the Six Day War in 1967.

Mr Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, is in Israel following the resumption of Israeli-Hungarian relations last September, and is to be

followed next month by Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Hungarian Prime Minister.

A 20-year period, during which the Soviet bloc shunned Israel and discriminated against its own Jewish population, appears to be ending. Ironically, Israel's interrupted ties with Romania under Nicolae Ceausescu are now an embarrassment. Like Jewish leaders inside Romania, they defend the links by saying they provided a useful channel to Moscow and saved Romanian Jews from even worse repressions.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, caused deep resentment in Poland recently by stating that Poles "suck in anti-Semitism with their mothers' milk". Challenged yesterday by a journalist from Solidarity, Mr Shamir — who was born in Poland and lost almost all his close relatives in the Holocaust — only partially retracted his remark by saying that "perhaps not all Poles" were anti-Semitic.

Most Israelis remain to be convinced that anti-Semitism has been eradicated

in Eastern and Central Europe and are very wary of German reunification.

None the less, Poland and East Germany have expressed a willingness to restore ties with Israel, and the East Germans, for the first time, have accepted responsibility for the Nazi past and offered to make reparations.

The Israeli newspaper *Al Hanishmar* observed recently that East-West rapprochement and the democratization of Eastern Europe were "bringing Israel closer into the circle of international relations... the long years when Israel was identified as an American extension in the Middle East are gone".

The East Europeans, their economies ruined by communist mismanagement, are turning to Israel for expertise in agriculture — especially irrigation — and high technology, giving Israel a trade boost just when it sees its markets threatened by European integration in 1992.

Nor is the ending of Israeli isolation confined to Eastern Europe. Several

African countries have restored links, led by Ethiopia, and ties with both Japan and China are markedly warmer.

The big prize for Israel is still elusive, however: the restoration of links with the Soviet Union itself. Moscow no longer sides automatically with pro-Arab forces in the United Nations. In October it abstained for the first time in the annual vote on ejecting Israel from the UN.

Israel and the Soviet Union have established consular missions, and liberalization under President Gorbachev has led to an exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. Last year about 13,000 Soviet Jews arrived, six times as many as in 1988, and despite the huge strain on housing and jobs, officials welcome the continuing influx at a rate of several hundred a day.

Partly because of new US restrictions on immigration, Israel is bracing itself to absorb at least 100,000 Soviet Jews over the next three years. Soviet tourists, many of them Jewish, are also coming in large numbers and Aeroflot, the Soviet

airline, is resuming direct flights. Israel hopes that these new trends will lead to reduced support in Eastern Europe for the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which Israeli officials say has received arms and training in "pre-revolutionary" communist East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

But the Soviet position remains that Moscow will not take the final step of restoring diplomatic ties until the Palestinian question is settled through direct Israeli-PLO talks leading to an international peace conference that gives Palestinians "legitimate rights" in a state of their own.

The full impact of the new East-West relationship on the Middle East is thus unclear. Some diplomats believe it will make Israel even less susceptible to outside pressure than before. Mr Shamir takes this line — while newspapers such as *Al Hanishmar* say new-found acceptability in Eastern Europe should bring "both a relief and a responsibility for Israel".

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Foreign reporters are barred from Azerbaijan capital

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

Foreign journalists have been barred from Baku, the Azerbaijan capital, because they would become "an additional factor of tension" during the present bout of unrest in the Republic, Mr. Gennadi Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday.

Mr. Gerasimov has so far felt unable to give any official Kremlin explanation for recent events in Azerbaijan or on Iranian reaction to the demonstrations along its border with the Soviet Republic.

At a briefing yesterday, he said that journalists going to the area "would simply be torn apart by the different groups claiming to have the absolute truth."

Since Azerbaijanis in the Nakhichevan region began tearing down border installations and barred entry along the southern frontier with Iran on New Year's Day, Moscow has been unable to make an official statement.

Several times Mr. Gerasimov has indicated that these events are being reported by the Soviet newspapers and television and that his office has nothing more to add.

While an Iranian foreign ministry delegation was in Moscow yesterday the Iranian news agency Irna was reporting that some 300 Soviet Moslems had braved freezing temperatures to stage a demonstration of Islamic solidarity with their Iranian kinsfolk along the Aras River which forms part of the frontier.

It was the second such demonstration reported by Irna who said that Soviet border guards had watched the demonstration but had not intervened. Mr. Gerasimov indicated in his briefing that these events would be discussed between the Iranian and Soviet sides in Moscow.

Meanwhile, in advance of Mr. Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Lithuania tomorrow to talk to breakaway local communists, a Soviet Communist Party delegation left Moscow yesterday for the capital Vilnius.

Both the advance party and the Soviet leader will have to report back to the party's central committee so that it can pronounce on the Lithuanian Communists' decision to breakaway from Moscow.

It is believed that the Lithuanians, led by Mr. Algirdas Brazauskas, their first secretary of the party, will not consider changing course.

Interviewed by the Radio Moscow Interfax agency, Mr. Alexander Yakovlev, the influential Politburo member, said he thought the Lithuanians had failed to take into account the possibility of a "domino effect" their withdrawal might have on the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

● ANKARA: Mr. Ayaz Mutalibov, the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, said yesterday that his republic wanted to expand relations with neighbouring Turkey (Reuter reports).

Mr. Mutalibov said on arrival in Ankara: "We have great resources, we must improve our trade volume."

He said that he wanted an air link between Turkey and Baku. He was expected to sign an economic and trade protocol and meet President Ozal and Mr. Ekrem Pakdemirli, the Finance Minister.

New Forum votes with its feet at Berlin talks



Fran Ingrid Köppe and Herr Rolf Hennich of New Forum walking out of yesterday's round table talks in East Berlin after a row over the security service.

Bulgarians try to ease ethnic tension

From Michael Hornsby, Sofia

Talks between Communist Party officials, Muslim leaders and other national and local groups began yesterday aimed at easing ethnic tensions after a week of nationalist agitation against restoration of religious and cultural rights to Bulgaria's mainly Turkish Muslim minority.

Nationalist groups called off anti-Muslim strikes and demonstrations to give the talks a better chance of success, and only a few hundred determined protesters were still outside the National Assembly building in the capital yesterday.

The Bulgarian and Turkish foreign ministers, meanwhile, are meeting in Kuwait today to discuss the situation.

Mr. Andrei Lukanov, a senior Bulgarian Politburo member, said his country wanted a "constructive and harmonious relationship" with Turkey, but warned the Ankara Government must not attempt to exploit ethnic friction or do anything that threatened Bulgaria's "territorial integrity".

Yesterday's meeting agreed an agenda for the talks on the ethnic problem which are expected to continue throughout the week.

The unrest in Bulgaria was caused by the decision of the Communist Party on December 29 to restore cultural and religious rights to the country's 1.5 million Muslims. The total population is nearly nine million. This involved, in particular, the repeal of the previous policy of forcing the Turkish minority to adopt Slav names which began in the mid-1980s under the leadership of Mr. Todor Zhivkov, who was ousted late last year.

The persecution of the Turkish community (there were reports of torture and imprisonment) drew international condemnation and led to serious friction with the Turkish Government.

Mr. Zhivkov was replaced by Mr. Petar Mladenov, formerly the country's Foreign Minister, who has pursued a policy of gradual liberalization. Government sources said yesterday that there was no question of going back on the December 29 decision to

restore Muslim rights, but efforts would be made to achieve consensus.

Western diplomats said that most of the Communist Party leadership, as well as opposition civil rights and trade

situation in Bulgaria yesterday, apparently based on the firm stand of the authorities in Sofia in the face of the nationalist demonstrations (Rashid Gurdilek writes).

Yesterday Turkish officials avoided comment on the weekend demonstrations in Sofia and other Bulgarian towns in order not to compromise the chances of a breakthrough at the foreign ministers' talks in Kuwait.

The Turkish media, meanwhile, focused on the calls issued by the post-Zhivkov Bulgarian leaders to the demonstrators for conciliation and understanding. The reports quoted Mr. Gyorgy Atanassov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, as defending the decision to end the forced assimilation of the ethnic Turks as an important pillar for national reconciliation.

The call by Mr. Stanko Todorov, the parliamentary Speaker, for the convening of a national forum for the debate of minority questions, also received press attention alongside similar calls by other officials for "calm and

reason". Mr. Murat Sungar, the Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman, at the weekend expressed Ankara's trust "that they (the Bulgarian authorities) are doing their best to contain the ethnic unrest".

And, before he left for Kuwait, Mr. Mesut Yilmaz, the Foreign Minister, blamed "the remnants of the old regime" for the demonstrations.

Ironically, the positions of the sides have reversed less than six months after the issue came to a head with the mass exodus of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria.

Ankara at first claimed that it could assimilate all the 1.5 million ethnic Turks in Bulgaria if necessary, while Sofia, at the cost of acute labour shortages and embarrassing international reaction, encouraged their exodus.

In the end, with no means to house, feed and employ more than a token number of refugees, Ankara was forced to reintroduce a visa requirement for the immigrants — and Sofia was trying to persuade them to stay.

union groups, supported the restoration of Muslim rights. Resistance appeared to be coming mainly from regional leaders loyal to Mr. Zhivkov.

● ANKARA: The Government here maintained a guarded optimism on the

UK olive branch to Moscow over talks on human rights

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Britain and the Soviet Union will today take their first step towards patching up an acrimonious dispute which caused the cancellation of important human rights talks in Moscow in September.

Two senior British officials are to hold two days of talks with Soviet counterparts and will subsequently meet Jewish *refuseniks*. But the talks will be on a much smaller scale than was originally intended.

The two countries have been holding regular human rights meetings since 1988 and had planned to expand them in September to include non-governmental experts. It was proposed by Moscow to build confidence, but backed and had the opposite effect because Moscow refused to grant a visa to a key member of the British delegation, the Reverend Michael Bourdeaux, general director of Keston College, Kent.

Mr. Bourdeaux, one of Britain's leading experts on Soviet religious affairs, has learned that he is *persona non grata* in the Soviet Union. A senior Soviet official has hinted that one of the objections to him was that he wrote an article in *The Times* in February about the reconstruction of the Catholic Cathedral in Vilnius, Lithuania, at which he was the only official guest.

His rejection by Moscow cast a cloud over attempts to improve the Anglo-Soviet relationship after an earlier setback in May, when Britain expelled 11 Soviet diplomats and journalists for "incompatible" activities.

In offering to reopen the talks, Britain has offered Moscow an olive branch. Before doing so, Mr. William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, consulted all the non-government experts who were to have taken part, and none objected.

But they will not be involved in the Moscow talks, and Mr. David Ratford, assistant Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, will tell his

Soviet counterparts that the original plans for expanded talks still depend on the dispute over Mr. Bourdeaux being resolved. One possibility is that the talks could be held in Britain.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr. Bourdeaux denied Soviet claims that he had broken the terms of his visa when he attended the reconstruction of the Cathedral in Vilnius, Lithuania, at which he was the only official guest.

Mr. Bourdeaux replied that his visa showed he was a guest and that one of his co-hosts was the Bishop of Vilnius. He wrote the article in response to a request by his hosts to publicize the event.

One irony is that the row has overshadowed praise by the British Government for improvements in human rights in the Soviet Union.

view with the socialist party newspaper *Nepszabadsag*, said that although the Interior Ministry was neutral and did not deal with the control of the local parties "it seems that there are some nooks and crannies where you still may find old reflexes because you cannot change such methods so easily after decades".

Although Mr. Horvath has denied any personal knowledge of the activities and has refused demands to step down by the two parties involved, the Alliance of Free Democrats and the League of Young Democrats, the statement seems to support claims that some people in the ministry kept careful track of what party leaders were up to.

Copies of documents said to

have been leaked by a state security office source presented details of the monitoring and surveillance, including transcripts of phone conversations. One was between a member of the Free Democrats and an East German journalist, but when asked about this Mr. Horvath said obliquely that "a telephone has two ends", implying that the bugging was carried out by the East Germans. He refused to comment on charges that the two security services might be working together.

Mr. Horvath says he does not doubt the origin of the documents, but believes they do not prove that there has been any illegal act. None the less, the minister ordered that all files relating to the case be frozen to prevent tampering or destruction and that an internal ministerial inquiry be set up. "We will reveal the facts of the case and punish those responsible," Mr. Horvath promised.

Lawyers for the opposition parties say that such surveillance is a criminal act under Hungary's new Constitution, but that detailed legislation about control of internal security operations will be considered by Parliament only

in February, which leaves the legal implications unclear.

The scandal has reminded Hungarians of the not-too-distant past when censorship and monitoring of private citizens by the communist regime was rife, and dissidents, many of whom are now prominent members of opposition parties, faced harassment because of their political beliefs and links with the West.

It also shows the difficulties involved in converting a one-party state to a multi-party democracy when sensitive posts such as the Interior Minister are still in the hands of the Communist Party, until free elections scheduled for March, take place.

Since the scandal broke, Mr. Horvath, a member of the Socialist Party, has accused the two opposition parties of targeting his ministry as part of a "well-planned scenario", and of exploiting the bad publicity as an election tactic.

Mr. Nemeth and the Socialist Party have been quick to disassociate themselves from the scandal. Both say they disapprove of any unlawful acts which infringed on constitutionally guaranteed civil rights.

Mr. Komarek, aged 59, was known as the most prominent reformer in the new leadership, and one of the country's most popular spokesmen in favour of change.

He is one of 130,000 who have left the party of 1.6 million members since anti-government protests began last November and eventually toppled the leadership after several weeks of peaceful demonstrations.

He was the long-time head of the national Economic Forecasting Institute, which was frequently critical of the adverse impact of communist central planning on the ailing economy. But despite harassment by the party for his views Mr. Komarek remained a party member for over 40 years and continued to bring pressure for economic changes.

Mr. Dlouhy, a Deputy Prime Minister, resigned from the party on December 29, and has cast his lot with the opposition, whose leader is President Havel.

He said it showed a free vote was not yet possible in East Germany and called on

Communist resignation hits party

By John Holland

Communist influence in Czechoslovakia's new "national consensus government" suffered a severe setback yesterday when Mr. Valtr Komarek, the Government's chief economic adviser and First Deputy Prime Minister resigned from the party.

Mr. Komarek gave no reason for his decision, which appeared to be a purely political move to escape the sinking fortunes of the Communists, who recently gave up their overwhelming majority in the Government and must now face their first free elections in four decades.

Mr. Vladimir Dlouhy, another leading Communist economist, who worked with Mr. Komarek, also resigned from the party, said Mr. Josef Hora, the party spokesman.

Mr. Komarek had hinted earlier he would leave earlier this year if the Communists failed to reform more quickly. His departure and that of Mr. Dlouhy leaves them with eight of the 21 posts in the Government.

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East Germans find a dark side to affluence over Wall

From Anne McElvoy, West Berlin

In East Berlin there is a new definition of the word unfortunate. It is the man who emigrates to West Berlin looking for a better life and ends up living in Kreuzberg.

The most neglected of West-Berlin's inner-city districts is jammed up against the Berlin Wall and consists largely of the unrenowned slum housing of the last century, built around tiny, dark and often badly sanitized courtyards.

The population is made up of unemployed West Berliners, Turkish immigrants and the more extreme manifestations of the left-wing Berlin scene, plotting the overthrow of capitalism.

This explosive mixture, coupled with a high proportion of illegal squatters, has resulted in violent riots every year and a general record of tension and poor relations with the police.

Since the flood of East Berliners to the West began

last September the West-Berlin authorities, already gripped by a severe housing problem, have been trying to evict squatters from the area to provide accommodation for East German families.

East Germans have been told for years by the socialist media of the riots and social disadvantages of Kreuzberg as a handy demonstration of the evils of capitalism.

The result of the attempt to clear squatters has been fighting and looting. On New Year's Eve, 50 demonstrators threw petrol bombs, bars and bricks from the roofs at the police. Several shops were plundered — a weekend tradition in Kreuzberg.

Herr Hans Hoffmann, who moved to Kreuzberg from the district of Prenzlauer Berg a few hundred metres away across the Wall, says that Kreuzberg is the only aspect of Western life he has met which lives up to the propaganda he

read in the East. "Kreuzberg seems to limp from one confrontation to another," he said, looking at the sea of broken bottles on the Heinrichplatz, the aftermath of another Saturday night.

His Trabant car was sprayed last week with the message "No asylum here for the traitors of Marxism".

The Kreuzberg left-wing, mainly black-clad students who make the Militant Tendency look like wishy-washy liberals, despise East German immigrants because the newcomers aspire to the comfortable bourgeois lifestyle that they are trying to escape.

The blot on the city's affluent landscape may soon find itself back in the mainstream of Berlin life. Already, developers are buying property and the squatters are planning their defence. The pitched battles of New Year's Eve look certain not to be the last in Kreuzberg.

Berlin ban on Republican

From Ian Murray Bonn

Herr Franz Schönhuber, leader of the radical right-wing Republican Party and a member of the European Parliament, was refused permission to enter East Germany yesterday.

He had tried to cross into East Berlin at Potsdamerplatz using the passport he holds as an MEP. After Herr Schönhuber had waited a long time, border guards told him he could not be admitted because of "fascist activities".

He denounced the decision as scandalous, adding that the given reason was absurd. He said it was nothing but proof of the worry of "a disintegrating state" confronted by the "real and, so far, the only anti-communist alternative — the Republican Party".

He said it showed a free vote was not yet possible in East Germany and called on



Herr Schönhuber: "Absurd" reason for refusal of entry

the Bonn Government to note this warning sign and to help the Republicans to exercise their democratic rights.

Given the desire of East Germany to join the European Community, he said it was ridiculous to deny an MEP permission to make an information-gathering trip.

The East German Govern-

ment, which remains communist-controlled (elections are planned for May 6), has been linking the party to neo-Nazi activity, although it says there are only about 1,500 Republican supporters in the entire country. The communists clearly hope this publicity will improve their election chances since the communist party claims to be the most implacable opponent of fascism.

Fascist parties are illegal in both East and West Germany; the Republicans have so far been treated as no more than "radical" in Bonn. Since they won seats on West Berlin city council a year ago and in last June's European elections, the East German authorities have been describing them as "fascists" and this remains the official line.

Despite the ban on their activities, Republican leaflets have recently been distributed in Leipzig and East Berlin.

Low-price era ends for Hungarians

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Hungarian shoppers, long accustomed to well-stocked stores and ample supplies of food, were confronted yesterday with almost bare shelves in many markets and sharply higher prices for what they could find as government price controls were lifted.

Phased introduction of free pricing — the first step of a long-term plan to transform a centrally planned economy into one based on market principles — entails an end to large government subsidies for agricultural producers and fixed food prices. Prices for

pork, a favourite with Hungarians, jumped immediately by 46 per cent, bakery products by 20 per cent and dairy products by 40 per cent. Only white bread and low-fat milk will remain subsidized.

Housing costs are also due to rise substantially, with rents on council flats increasing by half cent and water and sewerage charges soaring by more than 300 per cent. Public transport and postal rates will also rise.

To soften the blow, the Government has agreed to increase social welfare benefits to pensioners and families with children but the price

increases, with inflation currently at about 20 per cent, are not expected to match the higher costs.

Wages have kept pace with prices despite efforts by the Government to avoid a wage-price spiral which some economists have warned could double inflation by the end of this year.

This is the first time the Hungarian Government has taken such harsh measures, including possibly the closure of some 50 bankrupt state firms and permitting 50,000 people to be unemployed. It follows years of promises to deflate the bloated budget

deficit and institute market reforms.

The economic austerity programme was approved last month by Parliament in an effort to gain a \$1 billion (£610 million) loan from the International Monetary Fund and some further aid credits from the European Community to help Hungary restructure and modernize its economy and service its large debt.

Opposition parties have welcomed the ending of price subsidies and supports but the National Council of Trade Unions has warned the Government against acting as an "all-powerful elite".

th Israel

is returning direct talks that these new trends will lead to support in Eastern Europe for the Jewish Liberation Organisation. Israeli officials say the group is a communist East German front.

The Soviet position remains unclear. It will not take the East German diplomatic line, but it is not clear whether it will support the Jewish Liberation Organisation. Israeli officials say the group is a communist East German front.

Some diplomats believe that Israel-PLO talks leading to a peace agreement are being prepared this time. It is not clear whether this is a genuine effort to reach a settlement or a mere tactical move.

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January 8 1990

PARLIAMENT

Investigations into House of Fraser 'nearly complete'

Investigations into the House of Fraser takeover, some of which have extended overseas, are nearing completion, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, told the Commons at questions.

Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) had complained of extraordinary delay and asked whether Sir Patrick was concerned at the decision of the Department of Trade and Industry not to refer the unpublished report to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. That meant that, if serious fraud was discovered, identified or proved, there was nothing that the Attorney General or anyone else could do about the assets of the company.

Sir Patrick said that Lord Young of Grafton, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had told the House of Lords that he was very anxious indeed to publish the report.

"I am certain that that is exactly true of his successor."

Affidavits from the Serious Fraud Office and the office of the Director of Public Prosecu-

tions had said that in the interests of justice, publication of the report should be delayed pending investigations. Those investigations were not limited to this country, but had had also to take place overseas.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) had asked earlier whether the Attorney General would discuss with the Serious Fraud Office the Ferranti case and the fact that the directors had allowed a £250 million "drip" to take place under their noses.

"Does he expect us on this side to believe in the credibility of that taking place without fraud being involved and will be discuss with that office the question of £4,000 that went through a check-out with the result that a young mother and baby are in jail for six months?"

"If he wants equality, he should take Judge Pickles off cases of young black women and babies and stick him on City cases and let him loose there."

Sir Patrick: With his well known concern not to anticipate anything by jumping to a conclusion, he would not wish me to anticipate the result of the investigation part in train by the

Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions into matters concerning Ferranti.

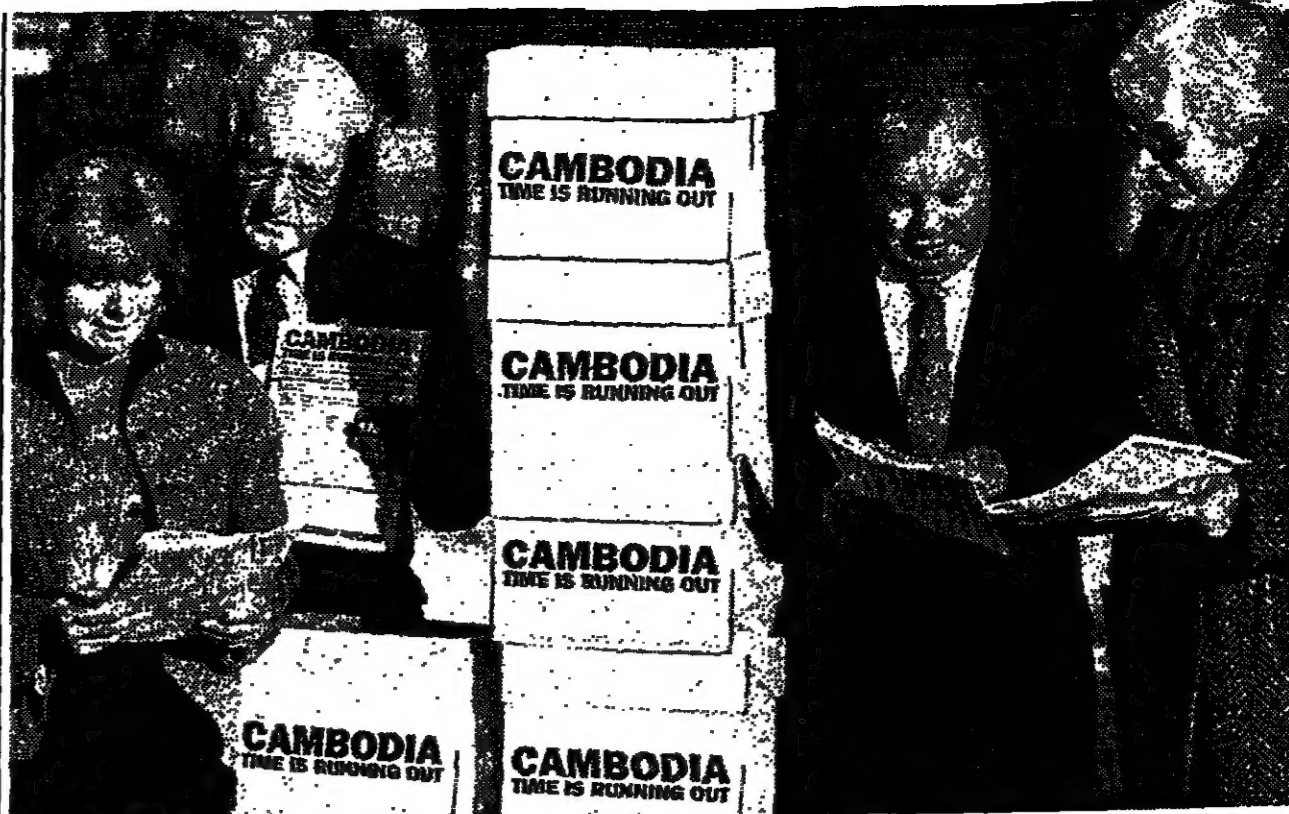
There is disquiet in the legal profession that the rate of remuneration in legal-aid cases, delays in payments, and the circumstances in which aid is granted has led to a reduction in the number of solicitors now willing to undertake such cases. Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC (Burton, C), said at question time.

Sir Nicholas Lyall, Solicitor General, said that he was aware of the concern. Considerable advances had been made in rates of remuneration. The Legal Aid Board was tackling promptness of payment.

He said that the provision for all legal-aid expenditure in the present supply estimates was £557,021,000, compared with £273,990,000 five years ago and £39,350,000 ten years ago.

Mr John McFall (Dumfries, Lab) said that poor people were discriminated against. The less money they had, the less chance they had of getting justice.

Sir Nicholas said that those assumptions were not entirely correct.



Mrs Ann Chwyd (Labour) (left), Sir Russell Johnston (Lib Dem) and Mr James Lester (Conservative) with Mrs Mary Cherry, chairman of Oxfam, examining the clarity of the petition on Cambodia before presenting it to the Foreign Office yesterday. The petition, with 125,000 signatures, expresses concern at the Government's policy towards the Cambodian people. Later, at question time in the Commons, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, said that the Government is to direct a further £1 million in aid to agencies for 1990-91.

There had been discussions on new project proposals with Voluntary Service Overseas and it had been told that the Government would be happy to support voluntary programmes in Cambodia. Mrs Chwyd, Opposition spokeswoman on development and co-operation, said that the widespread concern over events in that country and about government policy were reflected in the petition. All were concerned to see a political solution to the problems, she said, but could the House have an assurance that food aid was being properly monitored? Oxfam had reported that some food was

being parcelled up and sent directly to the armed forces, including the Khmer Rouge, fighting against the Cambodian Government. Mrs Chalker said that the Government had repeatedly asked for assurances that food aid was not finding its way to the Khmer Rouge. She was making every effort to ensure that the food went to the ordinary people in Cambodia. "But I am here in London. I am not in the camps in Cambodia and I cannot say with an honest heart that some of the food has gone through." The Government wanted to see a political solution in Cambodia.

Equality Bill wins second reading

The House of Commons resumed after the Christmas recess and gave a swift and unopposed second reading to a Bill to amend the rules on public service pensions to comply with an EC directive on equal treatment of men and women.

Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, moving the second reading of the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, said that there was no need for an important change to present legislation, but minor changes could be made while meeting EC obligations on equal treatment of men and women.

Mr Paul Flynn, an Opposition spokesman on social security, said that the most negative aspect of the Bill concerned pension increases for retired women under 55 with dependent children. If so few were involved, why bother to deprive them of pension increases that they had always enjoyed?

The House also debated, on second reading, the Government Trading Bill. Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that it would encourage civil servants in management agencies to take a more businesslike approach.

Consumer Bill in danger from DTI

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

The first private member's Bill to be debated during this session may be wrecked by opposition from Department of Trade and Industry ministers.

Private member's Bills are in any case extremely vulnerable to determined opposition by a small group, or even one, MP and only those winning the top six or seven places in the ballot stand a chance of getting enough time to be enacted.

Mr Martin Jones, Labour MP for Chwyd South West, has introduced the Consumer Guarantees Bill to give consumers wider powers to demand repairs or replacements for faulty goods, after coming top of the ballot. Its second reading debate will be on January 26.

But the department says that the Bill, largely drafted by the National Consumer Council, is "unworkable as originally proposed, excessively bureaucratic and adds to the burden on industry".

The department said that its final view will be disclosed after Mr Jones publishes his formal version of the legislation on Thursday. However, the department proffered legislation based on a reform of the Sale of Goods Act recommended by the Law Commission instead of the consumer council's proposals.

Mr Jones has said the Bill would give consumers buying goods with a guarantee the right to a replacement or full repairs for up to 12 months if the product is found to be faulty.

A MORI poll conducted for the council found that 96 per cent of people wanted their MP to support the Bill.

The prospects look brighter for the Computer Misuse Bill, introduced by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romney and Waterside, who came third in the ballot. Based on the Law Commission's recommendations to penalize computer hackers, it has the full backing of the department and all-party support.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has promised to support a Bill, which would make it a criminal offence to gain unauthorized entry into a computer, punishable by a fine of up to £2,000 and up to six months' imprisonment. Those gaining unauthorized entry with intent to commit a serious crime or to alter data would face up to five years' imprisonment.

Mr Colvin said Britain was becoming a "hacker's paradise".

and was the only Western country not to have specific legislation on computer crime.

Sir William Shelton, Conservative MP for Sleaford, has widened the scope of his Sexual Offences Bill to enable boys under 14 to be prosecuted for sexual offences.

His main aim is to tighten the law against herb crawlers who are a problem in certain areas of his constituency. It will amend the Sexual Offences Act, introduced by Dame Janet Fookes, which was found to be seriously flawed.

Her legislation states that a herb crawler has to solicit "persistently", which makes offenders difficult to prosecute.

Sir William also wants to raise the maximum fine from £400 to £1,000. In practice, he said, the fine is normally under £100. After talks with the Home Office he has added a clause to remove the "presumption of incapacity", which prevents boys under 14 from being charged with rape. The second reading debate will be on February 16.

The second place in the ballot went to Mr Michael Bates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, who has introduced a Bill to make certain outstanding commercial debts liable to interest. He said late payments on debts were causing increasing concern, particularly for small business people.

Mr Edward Leigh, Conservative MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle, who drew number five in the ballot, is concentrating on making sure that footpaths and bridleways are kept clear of crops.

Sixth in the ballot, Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Rushdown, will attempt to require planning permission before a house can be demolished.

The House of Lords does not hold a ballot. However, the handful of private peer's measures introduced each session usually complete their passage through the Upper House but fall in the Commons unless there is no opposition.

A list of private member's Bills and the dates of their second readings will be published tomorrow.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Defence; Prime Minister; Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

Labour plans for 20,000 jail cut

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Labour Party is to publish a "shadow" White Paper next week setting out the party's policies on criminal justice.

Labour spokesmen have indicated that the party is seeking to reduce the prison population by nearly 20,000 with a reduction in the number of custodial sentences and that a Labour government would introduce a sentencing council which would set and monitor strict sentencing guidelines.

The new policy document, which is not expected to announce a precise figure for the reduction sought in the prison population, will emphasize the need for the prevention of crime rather than the punishment of offenders.

It will welcome the Government's efforts to reduce the number of people sent to prison to little purpose and the moves towards coping with offenders within the community.

It will also emphasize the need for more attention to be paid to the victims of crime and make suggestions for improvements in the way the courts work. Labour argues that access to the courts is not on an equal basis in society and cannot be so while justice remains as expensive and as mysterious as it is.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said in a speech to the Birmingham Rotary Club yesterday: "The White Paper will be dedicated to achieving, for all our citizens, equality before the law, equal access to the law and equal treatment before the courts."

Mr Hattersley said that the 46 per cent increase in recorded offences could be reduced, but only by a sustained programme of crime prevention.

He accused the Government of being obsessed by the idea that the way to reduce crime was to increase the severity of sentences and said that "on many occasions" custodial sentences resulted in "second offences rather than deterrence."

"The best way of ensuring that a young man or woman follows a life of crime is to send them to prison for some minor offence."

All the evidence, he argued, was that an over-reliance on imprisonment was not the way to reduce crime.

The Government, Mr Hattersley said, was concerned with punishment rather than rehabilitation and he claimed that the recent decision to raise the threshold for committal showed that ministers did not really care about the victims of crime.

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EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS _____

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TEL. NO. (DAY) STD _____ (EVEN) STD _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS _____ ANNUAL INCOME £ _____

PLEASE STATE IF SELF-EMPLOYED YES/NO NUMBER OF _____ YEARS _____ MONTHS OCCUPATION _____

EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF YEARS SERVICE _____

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SPECTRUM

Still on the right track?

Sir Robert Reid has spoken of his hopes and fears for British Rail in the new Europe. George Hill reads between the lines

After seething in silence for months over the steadily deteriorating relationship between British Rail and transport ministers, Sir Robert Reid, BR's outgoing chairman, spoke out yesterday.

His speech to the Chartered Institute of Transport was much more than an exasperated outburst after months of anguish over safety standards, grievance over Government handling of last summer's industrial dispute and uncertainty over privatization and future investment. It was an unapologetic apology for a career which spans the whole history of nationalized railways in Britain, and an affirmation of his belief that a period of new vitality for the railways is ahead, if Britain is ready to seize the opportunity.

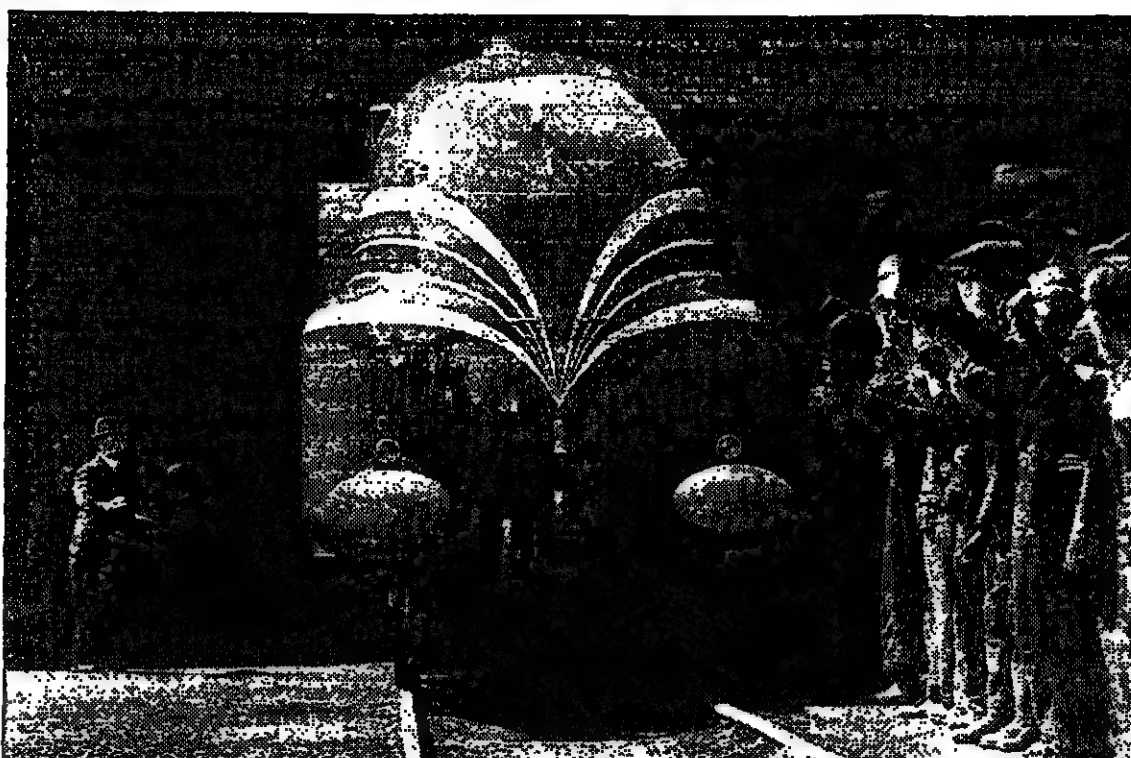
Like many transport planners in Britain, he looks across the Channel and is both impressed and alarmed by what he sees. Britain's neighbours are energetically building up integrated transport networks to take advantage of the growth in trade after 1992, and committing huge public funds to the enterprise. He fears that, unless Britain shows a comparable determination, it will be left on the sidelines. The European rail link, the greatest potential source of new strength for rail in this country for a century, could instead marginalize Britain's economy and turn it into a backwater, cut off from its markets.

With great vision and determination, the French are setting about creating a major communications hub at Charles de Gaulle Airport, on the outskirts of Paris, and inviting large-scale commercial development at the point of interchange between road, rail and air traffic. When the line of the rail link between Paris and the Channel Tunnel was first sketched on the map of France, a decision was made to divert it towards the city of Lille, and lead a line to Brussels from there. Thus a subsidiary hub would be placed at the centre of a zone of economic depression, where it would do most good.

At the same time, as Sir Robert said, the Belgians will be devoting their best efforts to establishing Brussels as a centre for interchanges between rail and air. The contrast with Britain, still deeply embroiled in uncertainties about the form and timing of its rail link with Europe, is glaring.

BR's own part in that sorry story is an iniquitous one. Its managers would claim that its record was partly the result of interference and irresolution in Whitehall. But yesterday Sir Robert was looking beyond that history of short-sighted decisions, launched on the public without regard for presentation and abandoned in favour of equally short-sighted decisions when the squeals of protest threatened to become too loud.

He wasted little breath on explicit or hinted recriminations concerning the recent past. He treated last year's behind-the-scenes battles against Government plans to privatize the railways — battles which BR conducted with patience and



Then and now: the changing face of rail from the pride and glory of the 1930s (top) to the disgruntled 1990s

diplomatic skill — as finished business. The aspects of the past he dwelt on were those that undermined his claim that BR, in managerial terms, is already well on course to become the streamlined, customer-oriented operation that the privatizers would seek to make it.

It is a claim that hard-pressed commuters in the south-east of England might greet with disbelief. In the past five years, commuters in the south-east have wrong-footed the planners by taking to rail in unexpectedly large numbers, and are suffering the consequent delays and congestion. But Sir Robert was able to point to significant advances

in productivity and financial performance since 1983. The reorganization of the system into five operating sectors has led to operating profits in the InterCity and freight sectors, and even Network SouthEast has halved its losses over the same period. Robert Reid, Sir Robert's successor, who takes over full control as chairman in October, may well see Network SouthEast in profit before his own five-year term comes to an end. It is an example which managers of the far more heavily subsidized railways in most other developed countries have observed with surprise, and some envy.

Much of what the outgoing chairman had to say was cast in the form of a message to his successor about being flexible, keeping in touch, and being ruthless when necessary. A lifelong Conservative, Sir Robert gave no ammunition to John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, about operating subsidies. When Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, announced just before Christmas that there was to be no let-up in the progress towards balancing the books, even at the cost of steadily rising fares, Prescott greeted the announcement as another nail in the coffin of public service railways.

Sir Robert, in contrast, firmly supports the concept of a system that pays its own way. In his speech he dwelt scornfully on the bad old days when priorities had been set by engineers, "those spending barons", whose demands had driven subsidies higher and higher.

But he made it clear that operating subsidies are one thing, and investment quite another. Underlying his warning about the dangers and opportunities of developments across the Channel lay another of the hard lessons which should have been learnt from the eventual misadventures of last year: the limitations of private-sector investment. A railway system should be able to run on one year to the next without subsidies of a general kind. But the massive investments needed to add major new routes to the network will not usually be forthcoming except from the state. The Channel Tunnel, which was to have blazed a trail in entrepreneurial initiative in large-scale infrastructural projects, is beginning to look increasingly like a warning to investors to be wary of visionary transport schemes. The ultimate cost is hard to predict, and the returns are far away in the future.

The management BR's has long been disenchanted with the state sector's investment regime. During the privatization debate, there was a clear perception within BR that it would be very pleasant to be freed from the criterion of return on investment that the Treasury imposes on new projects. If the Government had been interested in privatizing BR *en bloc* management would have found the idea quite alluring. But more recent events have shown that it is not easy for the private sector to take the long view where projects on this scale are concerned.

It ripples with supporters of rail that the criteria for assessing major road projects are not dependent to the same extent on the concept of profitability. Because road users do not pay a direct charge for the use of the road, a wider analysis of benefits has to be applied. Here, Sir Robert sees history coming full circle. Back in the early Sixties, he watched the railways undergo the heavy and salutary pruning of the Beeching era, on the basis of the cost-benefit analysis pioneered by Sir Alan Walters, who took a delight in demonstrating that some branch lines were so expensive to run that if BR closed them down and gave every user a Rolls-Royce, a chauffeur and a lifetime supply of petrol, it would still save money.

Now this very technique of cost-benefit analysis has been invoked by Sir Robert as the procedure to vindicate the value of investment in rail in an age of rising international traffic, cross-Channel links and rising environmental concern about roads and petrol engines. It would be ironic if the tool that seemed 20 years ago to have condemned rail to a marginal role in transport planning justified its claims to a central role in the pattern of European transport in the future.

Is it teacher, or Mr Mopp?

As the argument over school pay nears its climax, a member of staff tells of life as a cleaner in his own school

Teachers scurrying away from school may be concerned more to get to their part-time jobs than to return to their families. Every year about 4,000 of them give up the struggle to cope with pay they say is inadequate and leave for other jobs.

According to the National Union of Teachers, its members are working as bar staff, taxi drivers, car salesmen, shop workers, waiters, and nightclub stewards.

Cardinal Basil Hume spoke for many last week when he said: "The pay levels of teachers are too low, administrative burdens too great, the pace of change too hectic and unsettling."

He has entered the argument as the rates for 1990 are hammered out by the Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay. The committee, under Lord Chilver, is due to report to the Government at the end of the month. It has been told it must operate within a £600 million budget, which represents a 7.5 per cent rise across the total salary bill.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former headmaster of an inner London comprehensive school, and former junior Conservative Education Minister, is not alone when he says: "I have never known morale amongst teachers to be so low."

Money has something to do with that, but not all. They have fallen behind in public esteem as schools have not delivered what the public wants.

The unions say the time has come to start afresh. Many of them believe it is going to be easier to deal with John MacGregor than his predecessor as Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, although nobody doubts his toughness.

The unions have shifted their ground; they no longer rely on comparability with other professions but prefer to depend on market forces. Peter Smith, of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, says: "The more telling argument is whether the money is enough to attract sufficient teachers of the right quality. There is growing evidence that it is not."

MacGregor knows that he will have to do something about pay if it is not to become a serious issue for the Conservatives in the next general election. Not the least of his problems will be in the Home Counties, where high house prices are driving teachers away.

Even independent schools are finding it tougher to hire suitable staff and are discussing ways of making cheaper accommodation available. And the Government is holding discussions with the Treasury and local authorities to see if they can provide cheaper mortgages for the staff of state schools.

Iain McLean, head of information technology and business studies at the 760-pupil Falmouth Comprehensive School, Brighton, is typical of many teachers. He is a graduate of Sussex University and has been a teacher since 1973. He now earns £15,978, including an incentive allowance of £288 for added responsibility.

He says: "It is not just the money. It is certainly not enough to compensate for the aggravation we get every day from ministers and more money would certainly help. We used to be autonomous but now the Government does not trust us to make any decisions."

Other teachers take on extra work to add to their salaries. Graham Gordon, an English graduate, is a cleaner at his own school. Gordon, aged 41, a teacher since 1970, earns £14,690 a year, the maximum for a classroom teacher without allowances. He is married, with three young children, and pays a monthly mortgage of £160 on his two-bedroom bungalow. His part-time cleaning job at the 1,555-pupil Bournemouth Comprehensive School, in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, pays an extra £40 a week.

He says: "Teaching is so badly paid that I have to work as a cleaner just to survive. I did not enter teaching for the money but for the status. However, both have dropped alarmingly in recent years, following Government attacks."

He says that some of his colleagues also work part-time as estate agents or in bars. Unlike MacGregor, he does not see incentive allowances for extra responsibility as a solution to poor pay.

In the past, many teachers have boosted their income by offering private tuition. Gordon says this is no longer so attractive because the extra work produced by the national curriculum and other changes in schools leaves them too tired.

Many teachers claim they would not be able to support their families without a second wage coming in from their husband or wife. Fred Millward, who has just resigned as a science teacher, is married to a college lecturer. He and his wife live in a three-bedroom semi-detached house in Newcastle under Lyme, pay a mortgage of £320 a month, and have an eight-year-old son.

"It would have been almost impossible to manage without the two salaries," he says. "Money was only one of the reasons I left teaching — the other was an almost total disenchantment with the pace of the many changes teachers are facing."

Millward is working for Teachers' Assurance and earns less than the £15,978 he was paid as a head of year at Sneyd High School, Newcastle under Lyme. He expects this to change quite soon.

The problem for many teachers is summed up by David Jewell, Master of Halesbury, Hertford, and chairman of the Headmasters' Conference: "Teachers will work for love or money. Deprive them of both and they will wilt."

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Listen for the pun shots

A quotation is something that somebody once said that seemed to make sense at the time. But times and idiom change, making monkeys out of our old quotations. If he were composing today, I do not think that Henry Vaughan, the Welsh mystic poet, could write: "How brave the prospect of a bright backside!" This was too much for the Rev H.P. Lovecraft, who in his edition of Vaughan amended the last two words to "brave plain". I do not suppose that Elizabeth Barrett Browning would put it exactly the way she did in her "Wine of Cyprus":

Our Euripides, the human,
With his droppings of warm tears,
And his touches of things common
Till they rose to touch the spheres!

Custom has coarsened some of those words, particularly droppings.

The most obvious example of volatile idiom rendering quotations offside is the use of "gay" as a less hostile description of homosexual. This was first recorded in underworld and low life slang in the Thirties, but since the war has become widely idiomatic. Consequently a range of famous quotations have become impossible without schoolboy sniggers from the roughs at the back of the class.

For example, it is no longer possible for Chaucer's Wife of Bath to ask in her prologue: "Why is my neighbour's wife to gay?" without risk of double entendre. The same embarrassment has come upon Samson Agonistes:

But who is this, what thing of sea or land?
Female of sex it seems,
That so bedeck'd, ornate,

and gay,
Comes this way sailing
Like a satyrs ship of Tarsus?

And how about Iago, praising women to Desdemona and Emilia: "She never lacked gold, and yet went never gay?" In his poem "The Menagerie", one of William Vaughan Moody's characters says: "If nature made you so graceful, don't get gay." Poetry treads a perilous tightrope between sublimity

and bathos. I know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and double entendre in the ear of the Lower Fifth form. But there are some words that have become so dodgy because of changing slang that the prudent tight-rope-walker avoids them. Take "pants". Since 1840 these have been colloquial for the undergarments that were formerly called drawers. This has undermined a whole series of famous quotations.

Kubla Khan: "As if this earth in fast thick pants were breathing." Shelley in "Epipsychidion": "The slow, silent night/Is measured by the pants of their fast sleep." In *Othello*, Cassio prays that Othello might "make Love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms". In *Antony and Cleopatra*, Antony tells the wounded

Scarus to, "leap thou, attire and all/Through proof of harness to my heart, and there/Ride on the pants triumphing." Francis Thompson in "A Corymbus for Autumn" declares that "day's dying dragon" is "panting red pants into the West". I am trying as hard as I can to be high-minded about this, but I cannot help twitching at those red pants.

Once you have started spotting double entendres, literature becomes a minefield. *Paradise Lost*: "And leave a singed bottom all involved with stench and smoke."

Vanity Fair: "Amelia wept confidentially on the housekeeper's shoulder and relieved herself a good deal." *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: "Mrs Shelby stood like one stricken. Finally, turning to her toilet, she rested her face in her hands, and gave a sort of groan." Literature is as booby-trapped as life.

Philip Howard

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

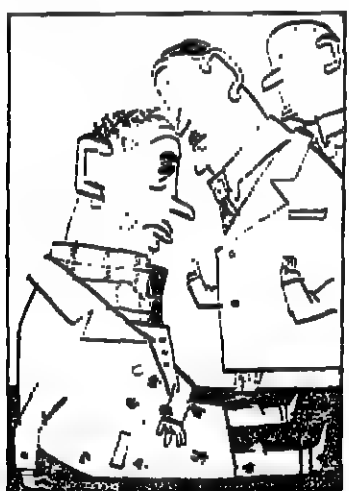
Whoever in the Pentagon has the job of dreaming up code names for American military adventures should probably be reassigned. Operation Just Cause is now almost universally known in Panama City as Operation Just 'Coe, although a catchier title would have been Operation Pineapple, the fruit to which General Noriega's complexion bears a supposed resemblance having become the unofficial emblem of the invasion. The local Holiday Inn is doing an invasion cocktail (with pineapple juice, naturally) and the Vatican embassy in which the dictator sought refuge has become known as the Casa de Pina Colada. His old cronies who speedily became turncoats in the face of 24,000 heavily armed boys from the north are now known as *pinas voladoras*—upside-down pineapples—and one local entrepreneur has been making a mint from selling T-shirts bearing a pineapple superimposed on a no-entry sign.

Meanwhile, the more fruitless facets of the operation include the Stealth bomber which dropped two 2,000lb bombs, leaving no trace of itself or the bombs, and the anti-eavesdropping rock music which failed to prevent journalists with shortwave radios picking up the voice of a GI saying: "Are we going ahead with this or has Washington changed its mind?"—the first indication that the General was about to give himself up. Equally unsuccessful was the army of watching journalists who ran a swagstakes on the date of Noriega's surrender; only one got it right, although the most popular bet was a 1,000-1 shot, offered by the correspondent of *The Times* doubling as media bookmaker, that Noriega would be ordained a Roman Catholic priest.

All in all, a funny little war. Had I been head of code names, I would have called the operation Gunfight at the OK Canal.

A bottle of champagne yesterday from MORI, the pollsters, to G.K. Hiscocks of Beaufort, a Cardiff market research company, for most accurately predicting the electorate's voting intentions at the turn of the year. As the predictions were made last March, it's hardly surprising that not one of the 31 entrants came anywhere near envisaging Labour's 7 per cent lead. Only four participants thought Labour would be ahead at all, and even the winner put it neck and neck with the Tories. But the wooden spoon goes to the optimist from the Liberal Democrats' office who wagered his party commanding 27 per cent of voters' affections. The actual figure was 6 per cent. At least it was double the Owen tally.

BARRY FANTONI



'Let me through—I've been talking to a lobby correspondent'

Having endured the BBC's 75-minute self-justification, *See For Yourself*, on Sunday night, in which value for licence money was the heavily underscored theme, I shall be watching part two with interest on Thursday night, when Sue Lawley questions Chairman Hussey and Director-General Checkland. As one of the Corporation's toughest and most able interviewers, will she, I wonder, get her teeth into the meat of the Phillips Committee, which has been looking at BBC financing and whose recommendations, including making up to a quarter of the 28,000 staff redundant, are up for discussion by the board of governors later this month? Lawley's husband, Hugh Williams, is a member of that very committee, so she ought to be uniquely well-equipped to go for the jugular. If she dares.

Charles Wood, chief executive of the Government's least favourite local authority—the London Borough of Brent—is enjoying a quiet smirk at the expense of his Whitehall overlords. Having read in the *Times* press that Brent Council's direct labour organization was running at a substantial loss, the Department of the Environment wrote to Wood demanding to know why he had not submitted an annual report and accounts, and making veiled threats that the organization would be banned from carrying out any construction works exceeding £50,000. Wood gleefully pointed out to the DOE that its threats were six months too late; Brent closed its direct labour organization last July, with the loss of 107 jobs.

Back home after a week of truffling, literally, in the Gallic flashpots, and therefore seeking some means of retaining the reader's goodwill against the spirit-plummeting prospect of yet another back-banging on about major hot dinners of our time, let me immediately reassure you. This column is not about food. It is about chefs; it seeks not to praise, but to grumble; and it is motivated not by self-indulgence but by reformist zeal. Especially as the old bad custom in France stands poised to become the new bad custom in Britain, this being the downside of that upside which over the past few years has been bringing us better and better domestic cooking by more and more chefs enjoying the heroic status which the culture increasingly bestows.

Make no mistake, here: I unreservedly accept the great

Hatcheries should welcome the decision by six Labour-controlled local authorities to run their own ambulance services. Although it seems to be another GLC-style tweaking of central government's nose, it could provide an escape route from the economic and political corner in which Kenneth Clarke, the Health Secretary, has become wedged.

The councils involved—all in the west Midlands, though the Labour-dominated Association of London Authorities may follow suit—have unwittingly endorsed several eminently market-related principles. First, they have shown that central government does not need to do everything itself and that competing centres of power have their merits. Smaller entities can be more innovative, act more quickly, and experiment with ideas that could not be introduced nationally. Mrs Thatcher and her ministers believe this in theory—and it does no harm to see it proved in practice from time to time.

Second, and more important, the authorities have broken through the principle that all ambulance services must be

Graham Mather maps out the answer to Clarke's emergency

Labour ambulance lifeline

provided under a national framework in NHS-owned vehicles. The use of non-NHS vehicles, hired or bought, concedes an important principle.

This raises a point about the present dispute. Why should ambulance personnel—or firemen, for that matter—at odds with their employers consider themselves entitled to rights in "their" vehicles, using them for demonstrations even if it means that alternative services have to be provided by a scratch collection of military vehicles? This is an abuse of public property.

The mention of firemen points to another principle which the Labour councils have conceded: that the despatch of ambulances should be controlled by the fire service. So a breach has been made in the idea that every emergency service must be in its own box, confined to a specific range of tasks.

To go one step further towards greater efficiency, why not allow suitably trained fire service personnel to man the ambulances in areas where this would be practical? Work by the Audit Commission suggests such work-sharing could lead to significant savings, especially in areas where firemen have long gaps between call-outs. I have talked to entrepreneurial fire service officers who itch to play a broader role in serving the public.

In areas of difficult terrain and congested roads, the emergency services could also share helicopters, or call on those now being bought by a number of police forces. Such moves could break down the increasingly artificial restrictions on whose job it is to provide emergency services.

Having inadvertently raised these questions, the Labour

authorities must also be thanked for giving ministers a clear path out of the ambulance service pay dispute. Public and political concern about the obvious shortcomings of the pay determination system in the emergency services is now quite apparent. Ministers are torn between yielding to that concern, which would lead to an unacceptable deterioration in emergency service provision, or toughening it out. They are, rightly, aware of the disastrous financial consequences for other health care if they were to yield in the present cash-limited, nationally-bargained NHS.

But neither of these avenues provides a long-term solution. Nor, really, does another apparently attractive option, pendulum arbitration, by which the arbitrator comes down in favour of one side with no middle

course. It would be an improvement on the present arrangements but makes no provision for more efficient local bargaining or pay differentials to reward specific skills—the problem which has got Mr Clarke into such hot water.

The answer, again, is to follow the Labour councils' lead. They are breaking out of the Whitley system and NHS resources to make their own arrangements. Ministers could offer a larger lump sum settlement to health authorities or local authorities; they could go further and agree to management buy-outs by ambulance personnel who can prove themselves competent to provide a regional or local service.

The condition should be that the service providers sort out their differential themselves, in their local labour market. Market forces would soon estab-

lish the real rate for the different jobs of paramedics and drivers. Some pay escalation might result, but it would have to be accepted. In the medium to longer term, any such increase would be made worth while by the establishment of a principle of tenders and contracts and devolution of differentials to local areas. Health care is expensive, and little purpose is served by rigging markets to pretend that it is not.

This proposal will, of course, be attacked as a plan to privatize the ambulance service. It is not. It is simply to do what the Labour authorities have shown can be done: to improve efficiency by arranging matters locally, under a responsible framework, and breaking down restrictive practices.

If one day it led to many ambulance services being tied in with fire or other emergency provision, or run by management buy-out staff with a stake in their jobs—well, so much the better. In the meantime let us give thanks to the Labour councils for pointing the way out of a dead-end dispute.

The author is general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Norman Tebbit urges a tough line against Tories who would sacrifice national sovereignty

No fudging on this Euro mould

Last night Conservative Euro MPs were due to meet the party chairman, Kenneth Baker, in preparation for a meeting with the Prime Minister on January 24. The initiative for the latter seems to have come from Downing Street—an olive branch prompted by the need to heal wounds and close ranks after a year in which Tory MEPs, the Government and party seemed not only out of step but intent on tripping one another up.

Kenneth Baker and the MEPs were undoubtedly at their diplomatic best, but I believe prospects for a happy outcome are bleak. Relations between the British government and parliament in Westminster and the Brussels oriented MEPs have never been easy. As party chairman between 1985 and 1987 I managed to keep the peace and act as a bridge between the two camps. That was possible not only because I was willing to be used as a political shock absorber; more importantly, there was mutual unwillingness to crystallize the issues in the unavoidable power struggle between the European Parliament and would-be Euro government in Brussels and our own Parliament and Government in Britain.

Kenneth Baker is unlikely to be so lucky. Although he will want to build bridges by way of better machinery for consultation between the British MEPs and Westminster, their demand for a vice-chairmanship of the party will not be welcomed. Nor will that be the only disagreement. Whatever bridges are built, traffic over them is more likely to be hostile than friendly.

In their present bawky mood it seems that the British MEPs will conclude that 1990 is the year their ambitions to create a united Europe will have priority over the need to close the rift with the Conservative leadership and MPs at home. The issue most likely to precipitate a party struggle is that of the single European currency. That, how-

ever, is merely a skirmish. Eventually, battle lines will be drawn between those who see the EC as a community of states allied by treaty to achieve defined common purposes and those who see it as a community, in which nations will become provinces with power concentrated into the hands of the pan-European institutions in Brussels.

Most MEPs would not yet see things so starkly. Few would own up to being federalists. In fact the views they mostly hold seem to go well beyond federation to the creation of a single central authority in which economic power would be concentrated. The issue of sovereignty is simply brushed aside as irrelevant, since the MEPs claim that Britain does not have economic sovereignty today. They argue that economic sovereignty is a myth, as governments are subject to external economic forces of similar, or greater, magnitude to national power.

One leading MEP claims that Britain now has only 20 per cent economic sovereignty, while in a pan-European economy we would share in the exercise of 50 per cent economic sovereignty. I am not sure that one-twelfth of 50 per cent is more than the whole of 20 per cent, or even if one can measure such things anyway.

It is true, of course, that no nation is immune to world economic forces. However, the same is true of sovereignty more generally and it cannot be argued that the existence of the superpowers has rendered the sovereignty of, say, Japan, or New Zealand or Israel a mere delusion. No sovereignty is absolute, as Russia found in Afghanistan and Argentina in the Falklands, and as Israel is finding in the occupied West Bank today, but to deny its existence is to deny reality.

The MEPs' counter-argument is that while Britain's veto could prevent progress towards a single European currency within the



EC's present mechanism, a new treaty to that end, separate from the Treaty of Rome, could be signed by the other 11 members. Britain would then be left to struggle belatedly into the system, having had no say in its design.

The assumption behind that argument is that the present government and supporters of

the concept of a Europe of nation-states are totally opposed to the use of a common currency. That is not so, and many free spirits would be willing to see the common use of currencies leading to a progressive diminution in the role, or elimination, of the weaker ones and increasing dominance of the stronger.

Such a solution does not

appeal to the MEPs. British they are and Conservative they claim to be, but only the European centralized system fits their ambition that their parliament at Strasbourg should be supreme over Westminster. The latter would become something of a glorified Greater London Council with added pageantry and, for the time being, control over criminal (but not commercial) law and the armed forces—almost useless to a government all but bereft of economic power.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, constrained in his budget judgement of the level of the public sector borrowing requirement or debt repayment, and faced with progressive loss of authority over the total to be raised by taxation, would find

‘Either Mrs Thatcher will acquiesce in the lowering of the curtain on our history as an independent nation or she will fight for Britain's independence, even at the risk of Tory MEPs leaving the party,’

Denying the tobacco industry its new recruits

Des Wilson launches a parent campaign to prevent children smoking

Despite evidence that 90 per cent of British people know that smoking can kill, one in three adults still smokes, and tobacco sales are increasing for the first time in many years. Since the Chief Medical Officer recently confirmed that cigarettes continue to be "the most important single cause of ill health and premature death" we need a fresh approach to the problem.

Health education alone is not the answer, for even official warnings on cigarette packets that "smoking can cause fatal diseases", do not deter. The problem with the obvious alternative—much tougher controls—is that it tends to be opposed even by non-smokers who believe that in a free society people should be able to choose whether to smoke or not.

The campaign being launched today by 100 well-known parents

to protect children from smoking could represent the most effective approach yet, for it circumvents the "free to choose" obstacle. It will not be directed at existing adult smokers; instead its legitimacy is based on the right of parents to defend the well-being of their children.

If adults wish to take the one in four chance of dying from a tobacco-related disease, so be it, but the most ardent advocate of personal freedom would surely accept that this choice should not extend to impressionable children, any more than they are free to buy alcohol. No one wants their children to start smoking. It is on this consensus that the parents will build a wedge between their children and tobacco, between one generation of smokers and another.

In a recent letter to this newspaper the Tobacco Advisory Council described smoking as an adult practice. So it should be, but it is not. In England alone more than 300,000 children smoke regularly and 180,000 occasionally. While there has been a fall overall in child smoking, the statistics for 15-year-olds remain alarming, with 22 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys smoking regularly.

Surveys to be published later today will show that the law passed in 1986 to stop the sale of cigarettes to children under 16 is being broken all over the country, by small shops, supermarkets, service stations and off-licences, and that few local authorities and police forces have made any attempt to enforce it.

The industry will protest that as part of its voluntary deal with the Department of Health, it spends £1 million a year on a campaign to promote the law. But that is only 1 per cent of the sum it spends promoting its products. It will insist too that its promotional activity is directed only at adults. That also is nonsense. Are children blind to billboards and the placards of tobacco sponsors at the sports events they watch on television?

Our surveys prove that besides being a failure, the industry's so-called campaign to prevent illicit sales is fraudulent. The industry needs child smokers. At least 110,000 people die prematurely from smoking each year. So the industry needs 300 new smokers every day simply to replace those it kills.

Where will the new smokers come from? Research shows that 75 per cent of adult smokers are hooked by the age of 18. In other words, nearly all new smokers have to come from the under-18s. As the World Health Organization says: "We must assume the tobacco industry, like all other industries, is interested in expansion. The failure of a generation of young people to start smoking would devastate it within 10 years."

Those who today launch the Parents against Tobacco campaign, supported by 50 national organizations and more than 150 MPs, believe we can meet that challenge. Up to now we have not really set out to stop children smoking. But it can be done: by proper enforcement of the law, by further restrictions on to-

bacco promotions and sponsorship, and by using the Budget to

While no real attempt is made to protect our children, the tobacco industry is shielded by hypocrisy. Economic factors (export earnings, jobs, tax revenue and even, perhaps, savings on pensions) are put before the cost of premature death and suffering.

Freedom of choice may conceivably protect the manufacture and sale of a lethal product, but not its portrayal as glamorous and socially acceptable. The tobacco industry will claim to sympathize with our concern and support many of our aims. If that were really true it would be saying it wanted to write off its future. Can anyone really believe that?

The author is chairman of Citizen Action's new Parents against Tobacco campaign.

A basinful of culinary obeisance



ALAN COREN

cook as an artist. The bloke who looks at a dead fish and a handful of weeds and discerns within them *rouget à la nage au basilic* is as deserving of that trade description as the one who juggles 26 letters until they have formed *Paradise Lost*, or wrinkles the Bach Double Violin Concerto out of eight lengths of catgut. I should happily endorse a Nobel Prize for Patisserie, or a Cooks' Corner in Westminster Abbey, and if Her Majesty were to take it in mind to drop the sabre upon some culinary shoulder, I would not stand in her way. For great chefs deserve all the admiration and gratitude a stomach has to give. I ask only that they don't come

out seeking it. Cooks should stay in kitchens.

Let us suppose I am happily immersed in a novel; I do not expect the doorbell to ring half-way through, and to find Kingsley Amis standing on the mat, notionally inquiring whether everything is all right, but actually asking me to fall and kiss the hem of his smock. I'm allolling on the South Bank, eyes closed to appreciate the magic fingers plucking the Waldstein from the keyboard, I do not expect to have those eyes snapped open by Alfred Brendel suddenly bellowing: "Well, what do you think of it so far?"

Shift the locale to many a major restaurant, however, and may

stop supposing. Of the four such in which I last week tied on the eager bib, all were culpable, and none more irritatingly so than the one which was the most major of all. Indeed, there are those who

would argue that the Ousteau de Baumannière is among the best half-dozen in the world: with its three Michelin stars, five crossed forks and spoons gules rampant, and countless other ribbons, roses, and accolades, it is, given the recent passing of President Ceausescu, possibly the most decorated thing there now is. Nor are the gongs unearned; three stars are translated by the great tyre gourmands as "worth a special journey", but I have little doubt that if there were a fourth star indicating "situated atop the Eiger but well worth approaching by the North Face", the Ousteau would get it.

I had, accordingly, been saliva-

ting at its prospect for years, and in the event, not a drop proved to have sprung in vain. We rolled our eyes over the *ravioli de truffes au poireaux*, we caught our breath at the *filets de loup à la vapeur au jus de betterave*—but then, just as we were about to raise the trembling cutlery over the *noisettes d'agneau Baumannière*, the corner of my eye picked up what it most dreaded. A flash of white, no bigger than a man's touque.

The premises freeze-framed, and a susurrant ripple through the serried diners. Old M Thullier had appeared. Untrumpeted, perhaps, untrumpeted, unannounced, but even so you never saw such a

coming. As table after table paused in sequence and went into an elaborate routine of fawning, and grinning, and gasping, it was as if a ward-round had been crossed with a Mexican wave. In the 30 minutes he took to reach us, the *noisettes* disappeared, but I cannot remember eating them, so preoccupied was I in composing something gushing to lay at M Thullier's feet in order that he should not feel we were unworthy to have a couple of hundred quid taken off us. Eventually, he bowed to, I gurgled, he nodded, and moved imperiously on. "I didn't catch any of that," said my wife. "Did you say *Please sir, can I have some more?*" I shall write to Michelin. The time has come for a new little symbol. A touque with three vertical bars in front of it, indicating a restaurant where the chef doesn't appear.

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TIME TO SETTLE

There comes a psychological moment in any industrial dispute when one side or the other — or both — decide that the time has come to find a settlement. Few would be greatly surprised if that point had now arrived in the so-far intractable ambulance men's dispute. Those watching can even detect a subtle change in the use of language and (in the age of broadcasting) of tone of voice. Both sides now seem to be moving tentatively towards convergence.

The Government has been right all along to argue that the ambulance men were much more akin to health service workers than to firemen or policemen. It was that correct analysis which lay behind the original offer to the ambulance men being in line with the general health service pay settlement of last spring, rather than being tied to pay in the fire service.

It has to be admitted that most of the work done by ambulance men consists — in Mr Kenneth Clarke's unkind phrase — of little more than taxi driving. Some of the rest involves answering emergency calls. But even in that case ambulance men are only the extended arm of the hospital casualty service.

It may be life saving, but no less so than the work of the doctors, nurses, porters, and others who staff the hospital casualty departments. By no means all ambulance crews are qualified paramedics, people able to provide at the road side or at the scene of a disaster sophisticated life-saving first-aid treatment for serious injuries. Where they are so qualified, this should be recognized in their pay and status. Those not yet qualified should have suitable opportunities and encouragement to become so.

All this has already been said in the course of the dispute so far, and it contains elements which would be useful in constructing a satisfactory settlement. In addition, the management side has made a revised pay offer which would span a different period from the offer originally made, while increasing pay by a higher percentage.

There has been a somewhat theoretical argument between the two sides about whether this represented "new money" — in the

beloved phrase of industrial relations bargaining — or not. But such niceties are only for those with a pocket calculator to hand and a more than usual facility with the rules of arithmetic, logic, and the conventional language of industrial relations.

For most of the public, it will merely have muddled the waters. And that, if the finding of a settlement is now the task in hand, could be a benefit too. It would make it less clear which side has won or lost, or whether one side has compromised more than the other. After the sort of dispute that this has become, any solution now will have to contain prizes for everyone, and honour all round.

On the political front the Government is now coming under some pressure to find a solution. It would be exaggerated to say, as some Conservative MPs are reported to be saying, that the ambulance men have won the "hearts and minds" aspect of the dispute; and more nearly the truth to note merely that they have not lost it.

Given that the public regards the ambulance emergency service as little short of vital, and the arrangements to substitute for it as only just adequate, it is notable that the ambulance men have not stirred up public antagonism against themselves. They have done so by the clever tactic of providing, or pretending to provide, alternative emergency cover in answer to 999 calls, and have thereby avoided the onus of being responsible for withdrawing that cover.

If Mr Clarke calculated on public pressure to bring the ambulance men to heel, he misjudged it. What he should now do is reshuffle the various elements in his previous proposals and return to the negotiating table.

He should take with him proposals for some new structural device for reviewing ambulance men's pay, so that ambulance men can feel their longer-term aspirations about pay and status might continue in play beyond this dispute. And after a seemingly amount of new negotiation, the ambulance men should settle.

SIR ROBERT'S SWAN-SONG

Every schoolboy knows that if you are the master of an oil tanker in the English Channel and you want to turn left into the Bay of Biscay, you must start doing something about it as you pass the white cliffs of Dover. The principle, it seems, is not confined to bulk shipping.

In London last night, Sir Robert Reid, the retiring Chairman of the British Rail Board, delivered a valedictory address to the Chartered Institute of Transport. Sir Robert joined the old LNER as a graduate trainee in 1947. "The railway," he told his audience, "was then organized and managed in a way which basically remained unchanged until 1982".

Sir Robert maintained that for the first 35 years after it was nationalized, British Rail continued to be organized as a bureaucracy, to be engineering based, to be union dominated and to be production led. The regional general managers reigned supreme — "railway barons exercising great power in the geographical territories which they commanded" — and yet the business basis of their operations was as weak as their command structure was strong.

There were also the engineers — "powerful people whose word tended to be law", said Sir Robert. "Decisions about infrastructure, rolling stock and locomotives were all seen as being engineering decisions, and they tended to get the blame for high cost".

Dr Beeching's period at the helm clearly made a profound impression on Sir Robert — "His strategic thinking about the future of the railways was a revelation". The swinging sixties, however, were not congenial to this harbinger of Thatcherism. Railway management was still dominated by the notion of being a transport monopoly with common carrier obligations.

It was rather as if Atatürk had been made mayor of Tunbridge Wells. After four short

years he was gone, the attempt to focus on marketing hardly begun. Modern times proper began in 1982. "For the first time we knew what was expected of us", Sir Robert said — "to run an efficient service providing good value for money; to reduce the passenger grant; to increase private sector participation." BR was restructured into five accountable businesses, and the focus on the market place brought about a sharp improvement.

The historical part of Sir Robert's testament took up a good deal more time than the section in which he offered a view about what the priorities should be for the future. He sees enormous opportunities for BR in the single market and the opening of the Channel tunnel, but he is rightly preoccupied by the efforts of the French to make Charles de Gaulle Airport the hub of Europe, connected by new high speed trains to all parts of the Continent.

It is a challenge which he thinks can be met, but only if we expedite the British Parliamentary Bill procedures, make an early start on the Paddington-Heathrow rail link and find a way of financing the links from King's Cross and Waterloo to the Channel tunnel. "Government", he said, "has already made it clear that BR's investments can in certain circumstances be judged on the basis of cost benefit analysis. Let us hope they will use it to good effect in the next few years".

That was the point in his swan-song at which Sir Robert was most overtly critical of the Government. There have been suggestions from British Rail sources that there are a number of issues on which he feels rather more strongly. If that is so, he should seek an occasion to say clearly what they are before he hands over to his namesake in March. An admirer of Dr Beeching's has no need of winks and nods.

TURK AND BULGAR

Mr Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Foreign Minister, has blamed "remnants" of the ousted regime of Mr Todor Zhivkov for the anti-Muslim demonstrations sweeping through Bulgaria. That sounds like wishful thinking on his part.

Or perhaps he was simply being diplomatic. Today he meets his Bulgarian counterpart Mr Boyko Dimitrov in Kuwait in an attempt to settle Bulgaria's ethnic strife. With talks also under way now in Sofia between the parties involved in the dispute, Bulgaria's new Government would seem to be making strenuous efforts.

Minimal suspicion between Bulgaria's ruling Slavs and its 1,500,000 Muslim minority is deeply rooted. Since 1877, when the country won its independence from the Ottoman Empire, the Slavs have disliked and distrusted the ethnic Turks, as well as those Bulgars who had converted to Islam.

The present crisis had its origins five years ago. Mr Zhivkov's Brezhnevite Government in Sofia adopted a policy of forced assimilation. The Turks were ordered even to change their names — part of a campaign to eradicate their separate cultural and religious identity.

The reaction among the Muslims was predictable. Resentment bred a generation of young activists who led demonstrations which turned into street violence. Under the tightly controlled regime of Mr Zhivkov it was their only way of making their voices heard.

Against this background of rising fear and oppression, the Turks last year began an exodus from the country. Their belongings piled high on carts or on rusting trucks, they streamed across the frontier into Turkey, until even Ankara had to half-close its open door.

As many as 300,000 fled Bulgaria, creating pressures on homes and jobs in their new country. While the Sofia Government denied that they were being deported, it was guilty at

the very least of constructively expelling them. This came to an end with the fall of Mr Zhivkov. Four days after Christmas, his successors in Sofia announced an end to the assimilation programme. The Turkish minority would once more be free to practise their religion, speak their own language and retain their traditional names.

The angry reaction which developed within days reflects the bitter divisions in the country. Last week thousands of Bulgarians waving the red, white and green national flag and chanting "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians" protested in Sofia and seven more cities, demanding that the new policies be reversed, pending a national referendum on ethnic rights.

To their credit, both the communist Government and the democratic opposition in Sofia have rejected the demands. Four days of continuing strikes and demonstrations have, however, forced the Government to hold today's inter-communal talks in Sofia.

The Government must be encouraged to resist. Last year's flight by the frustrated Turks and other Muslims not only depleted Bulgaria's own workforce (creating significant problems in some areas) but further damaged Bulgaria's international reputation.

Britain and the United States were among those countries which condemned the Zhivkov regime for its intolerance. Not that Mr Zhivkov seemed to worry, secure as he was behind the closed frontiers and security apparatus of the Soviet bloc.

His successors, however, are exposed to the political and economic realities of a new Europe. They will find that they need aid and technical assistance if they are to make their way in a more open and competitive market. Much will depend on their dedication to reform. Bulgaria's people as well as its Government should know that.

Medical help for the Romanians

From Mr Nicholas Mellor

Sir, With two friends on December 28 I delivered a tonne of medical supplies by van to one of the hospitals in Bucharest. Though it was impossible to get a clear picture of the medical priorities with the confusion and dramatic changes occurring in the city, it was obvious that there was a grave shortage in the hospitals I visited. These shortages appeared to be as much due to the legacy of a run-down health-care service as to the additional burden on the hospitals from the casualties of the revolution.

A number of factors hampered the relief effort in the early days of the emergency. These included the lack of an official host government to liaise with, uncertainty about the number of casualties, and snow storms which at times closed the airport and disrupted the already weak local distribution network.

The French response to the emergency was particularly impressive. They were amongst the first on the ground with their relief effort spearheaded by non-governmental organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde. These organisations sent in self-contained teams of medics with logistical support and medical supplies which were complementary to the official international relief effort. Although larger-scale and internationally coordinated, the official effort was inevitably slower and less flexible than the French.

Whilst putting together a team in the UK to get medical aid to the hospitals in Bucharest, I was in contact with the Foreign Office, the British Red Cross and the Overseas Development Administration, but found no UK organisation geared up to providing the immediate help that the French were so ready to give. However, the response of individuals who offered money, supplies and professional help was impressive.

This generous response raises the question as to how this good will could be better mobilized to enable the UK to respond more effectively to emergencies such as that which occurred in Romania. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS MELLOR, Twilly Springs House, West Headred, Wantage, Oxfordshire, January 5.

Docklands problem

From the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, I was a little irritated by Dr Andrew Church's attack on planners over the problems of the London Docklands (January 3). Dr Church had only to read your own columns to know that planners have been among the most severe critics of the process by which development in Docklands had proceeded. For example, in an article on October 30 headed "London Docklands scheme an irredeemable failure", your Property Correspondent, Mr Christopher Warman, referred extensively to my own very direct criticisms expressed in a speech to the Docklands Forum.

The problem is not, as Dr Church alleges, that planners have "ignored the needs and priorities of Docklands residents and Londoners in general". The problem is that planners were not given the opportunity either to ignore or to take account of these needs — they were excluded from the process right from the start.

Despite this misunderstanding, I concur with Dr Church's general conclusions about the inappropriateness, impracticality, and inefficiency of the market-led process which we saw in Docklands in the early 1980s. Happily these lessons have been learnt, and the LDDC (London Docklands Development Corporation) is now operating much more sensibly and responsibly than once it did.

Yours faithfully, C. J. SHEPLEY, President, Royal Town Planning Institute, 26 Portland Place, W1, January 5.

Charity reform

From Mr Martin Kochanski

Sir, Rabbi Julia Neuberger (article, January 3) is right in saying that the tax system should be used to increase charitable giving, and Dr David Green (letter, January 5) is right in opposing compulsion as undermining personal moral responsibility.

A different tax reform, no less radical than Rabbi Neuberger's, would not only increase charitable giving but meet Dr Green's objections by enhancing the personal element. Let the basic rate of income tax be reduced from 25 per cent to 24 per cent provided that the remaining 1 per cent is given to charity.

The Exchequer would not, of course, lose the whole of the 1 per cent cut, because some people would be too lazy to give the money away; for the rest, ordinary people would for the first time have the chance to be substantial benefactors, and the habits of giving and involvement, once planted, would grow naturally without further intervention.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN KOCHANSKI, 7 Courtfield Gardens, SW5, January 5.

From Mr Justin Temple

Sir, The case made by Rabbi Julia Neuberger for an income tax surcharge that would go to charity is based largely on philosophies contrary to the rationale of normal democratic government.

Forging a shield for civil rights

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, One wonders why Lord Scarman ("Bill of Rights that's ours for the taking", January 4) casts aside the Kilmuir rules, which commend judicial silence on non-judicial matters, why he argues more by assertion than with evidence, and why he encourages British people, who have deliberately avoided pieces of paper as constitutional safeguards for centuries, to adopt the European Convention on Human Rights, which was cobbled together as a minimum constitutional code in 1950.

He lists rights covered in this Convention. It begins with the right to life and includes such important rights as the freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, slavery, forced labour, the right to liberty — whatever that means — and many other rights which were won by the people after centuries of struggle and are protected, first, by public understanding and, second, by law.

Is John Locke, the great political philosopher, outdated since 1950 for holding that basic human rights exist in the nature of society and the nature of man instead of the whim of Government or in bits of paper?

Is it that Lord Scarman wants to bring the judiciary more into centre stage, where it can vie with Parliament, or is it that he wants to entertain lawyers to the picnic which the Convention would offer them?

Maybe if your readers could see part of the Convention, they could see what a poor document it is and contrast it with the great constitutional history of this isle, which is arguably the most precious national heritage. Yours sincerely, MALCOLM HILL, 142 Lenham Gardens, W8.

From Mr Christopher White

Sir, Lord Denning accurately forecast European Community legislation as an unstoppable tide. The weight of European law and its effect on our delicately held civil rights is something Lord Scarman might well have reflected on in setting out his case of a "Bill of Rights 1990".

In the preamble to the Single

War crimes trials

From the Executive Vice-President of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues

Sir, There is much agreement, even from leading jurists from our own community, that it will be difficult to give alleged war criminals a fair trial so many years after the holocaust.

However, Miss Amiel ("War crimes: a timely case", January 3) commits an injustice against the members of Parliament who overwhelmingly supported the enabling legislation when she affirms that the only harm that "old Nazis" can do us is "to force us to distort our system of justice in order to catch them".

Parliament has done no more than agree to enable the courts to bring to justice those who had become British citizens after their

Nuclear benefit

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, 1990 is presumed to be a year of great turbulence in the governance of many historic countries, especially in Europe. Fifty technological years ago, these circumstances would have had us quaking in our shoes at the prospect of another devastating international war.

As it is now, however, there are nuclear arsenals whose very existence must be exercising an unprecedented power for international peace. Perhaps, therefore, our first new year resolution should be to acknowledge with thankfulness the good which nuclear weapons do.

Yours faithfully, B. THWAITES, Milnthorpe, Winchester, Hampshire, January 1.

Gallery parties

From Mr Bernard Dunstan, RA

Sir, Mr Cecil Gould's letter (December 27) underlines the fact that the solitary student who is not a member of a group has become the least-considered part of the gallery's public. It is common to see in the National Gallery a party of small children sitting on the floor while they are being given a talk; they are very charming and well-behaved and are doubtless learning a lot, but they effectively seal off from close consideration half a dozen or so pictures for the duration of their lesson. Any big exhibition at the Royal Academy can be rendered almost impossible to enjoy because of school parties.

Would it not be possible to set aside one day a week in which no parties were admitted? Then elderly, as well as young, students on their own would have a chance. Yours sincerely, BERNARD DUNSTAN, 10 High Park Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, December 29.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Levels of stress among teachers

From Professor Emeritus Ivor H. Mills

Sir, The words of Cardinal Basil Hume must be considered carefully, though, as you point out in your editorial (January 4), pay is only one factor in determining the status of teachers in society.

Increased demands upon teachers have arisen in a variety of ways which were already definable years ago when I indicated that teachers were becoming disproportionately represented in medical conditions related to stress (letters, May 14, 1975). Over the years since then the subject of stress in schools has been by far the commonest lecture I have been asked to give — to teachers' conferences, parent-teachers' meetings, teachers-training colleges, and even meetings of HM inspectors of schools.

As Cardinal Hume said, teachers have been struggling to have increases in salaries, but the authorities have been simultaneously urged to get value for money and have demanded more responsibilities, more administration, and more hours of active teaching. This applies not only to school teachers, but also to teachers at technical colleges, polytechnics and universities.

The teaching profession tends to attract perfectionists, who devote long hours to preparing material and put great energy into presentation, especially when the teacher has to compete with last night's exciting television to hold the children's attention.

Offering more money only in return for much more intense dedication to teaching eventually encourages the perfectionist to push, especially herself, near the limit of tolerance. Those women who are married frequently feel that many of the home responsibilities are particularly their, even when they have helpful husbands. Friction at home and break-up of marriages then increase.

Pressures at polytechnics and, to a slightly lesser extent, at universities have also increased, particularly in that teachers find it more difficult to be allowed to use time for research in their subject as demands for more hours of teaching are made on them. Not only does life then become less interesting for them, but the build up of pressures is one of the factors causing teachers to leave their chosen work.

Teachers who do not care very much do not drive themselves in response to pressure and are less likely to suffer under such strain. The most dedicated teachers are the very ones who will respond to more demanding teaching circumstances, even to the extent of having their health suffer. Resignation because of ill-health or loss of job satisfaction occurs, or, either way, society runs the risk of losing the most valuable section of the teaching profession.

Yours faithfully, IVOR H. MILLS, Douglas House, Trumpington Road, Cambridge, January 4.

Aid for cathedrals

From Professor Margaret Macketh

Sir, Our cathedrals are the greatest works of art and architecture this country possesses and it is essential that such a major part of our national heritage is properly protected from the ravages of time and the unwitting damage inflicted by the many millions of visitors.

Mr Edwards's proposals (December 30) would inevitably lead to cathedrals becoming leisure activity at worst or museums at best. It would be disastrous to make these beautiful religious buildings the responsibility of local authorities, who, despite your correspondent's trusting view, are the worst owners of listed buildings in the country.

There are thousands of buildings in local authority ownership which are neglected and often ill used, because there is not the money, the professional skills, or the will to give them high priority. Or they become the centre of a theme park or activity museum.

A "National Trust" for our cathedrals and parish churches would be the most appropriate body, with architectural conservation professionals and craftsmen to call upon, sensitive national promotion for tourism and local supervisory groups. Yours faithfully, MARGARET MACKETH, 104 Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, January 1.

Riding in the Row

From Mr Gerald Leach

Sir, I wonder if the proposed improvements to Rotten Row (report, January 2) will also bring an improvement in the standard of dress of the riders who use it. In my riding days, some 30 years ago, even jodhpurs were considered to be "not quite the thing"; well-cut breeches, boots, spurs and bowler were almost always worn. Nowadays, I see riders in very odd clothing, including jeans and tennis shoes.

The only properly turned out riders one sees now are Household Cavalry officers.

Yours faithfully, GERALD LEACH, 14 Rockwood Avenue, Moor Road, Baginbun, Greater Manchester, January 3.

THE ARTS

When it is right to cry wolf

TELEVISION
Jasper Rees

No one would suggest that anything needs changing in the way BBC Bristol's Natural History Unit makes programmes, but a conservation series called *Survivors* (BBC 1) has come at nature from a new direction — the animal's camera angle.

For some of last night's first episode, the lens pretended to see things the way wolves do, in particular a small pack of them which 10 years ago miraculously cropped up in a part of Sweden, quite far south, where wolves had not been seen for decades, and which seem to have found themselves in a human landscape from the wrong end of a gun.

Though different resonances will clearly have to be found in subsequent programmes on locusts, new-born kangaroos, bald eagles and mahogany trees, the effect sought and found in "The Wolf Saga" was to reverse the roles assigned to man and beast in cheap werewolf horror flicks. With a soundtrack of heavy panicked breathing accompanying the camera's trek through the scrubby forest undergrowth, the wolf's eyerew was implicitly that of the hunted as opposed to the hunter.

A nature film whose subject is, for much of the duration, the one thing removed from the viewer's vision has its limitations, and this film also relied, like any other, on the more conventional traits of the genre — an expanse of beautiful landscape photography, spectacular fauna and fowl. But the emphasis was less on prettiness than polemic. Lapsing facts that tend not to see the light of day (in Sweden the bee is statistically more lethal than the wolf, for example) combined in Stephen Mills's edifying film to re-cast man in a role he must be getting used to by now — that of monster.

In a report on apartheid in South Africa sport, *World in Action* (ITV) was unable to guarantee a cooler fate for Mike Gatting's knackered cricketers, soon to begin their rebel tour, than that which the wolves have suffered in Sweden.

Returning chaste to his homeland, where he has not been welcome for over 20 years, to look into the claim that South African cricket has put its own house in order, the anti-apartheid activist Peter Hain came up with what looked like irrefutable images of sporting segregation: the cricket pitch at Hala's old school, for example, was green and pleasant; the nearby pitch for non-whites was a grey gravel desert. Though the programme began with Gatting professing his faith in sport without politics, his was evidence that in the country to which he has sold his wares the two are, at the most basic level, indivisible.

TOMORROW

Fresh Eyre at the NT:
Richard Eyre talks
to Sheridan Morley

Television reviewer Jasper Rees in vain search of good, new, British television humour

No laughing matter

Until Yule and the tide of Eighties retrospectives intervened, December had been a typical month for television comedy: the funniest new jokes were American and the funniest old ones were British. *One Night Stand*, the one-man-and-a-microphone Home Box Office series, and the Friday-night double bill of *Empty Nest* and *Golden Girls*, all of them transatlantic imports on Channel 4, were hitting a spot that the current native shows are missing.

The exceptions, and this is the root of the problem, are in alternative comedy. Conceived as a riposte to the stand-up banality of Jimmy Tarbuck and his like, alternative comedy has not only usurped it but also gone on to replace good sitcom as the best of British on television. The snag is that its humour caters for a much more specific audience than, say, *The Good Life* or *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, the likes of which had a monopoly on fine comic acting and scriptwriting 10 or 12 years ago.

Alternative comedy, as last year's twentieth anniversary celebrations stressed, began with Monty Python, but its real efflorescence was in the decade we have just spent a whole month saying good-bye to. First there was *Not The Nine O'Clock News*, which launched Atkinson, Smith and Jones, and then *A Kick Up the Eighties*, a short-lived Richard Stilgoe vehicle which gave Rik Mayall, in the person of the witless Brummae investigator Kevin Turvey, his first chance on television.

Both Mayall and Atkinson went on to find excellent helpmates in Ben Elton and Richard Curtis, who scripted the squat-com *The Young Ones* and the incomparable *Blackadder*, while 10 years on the Smith and Jones act profitably continues to expand. Although Atkinson, with the help of slightly silly forays such as the recent Thames "silent" comedy *Mr Bean*, has acquired wide appeal, one cannot necessarily say the same of his coevals.

At the end of the decade there is no long-running mainstream comedy to rival the by no means consistently funny performances of the Comic Strip generation — French & Saunders, Hale & Pace, Leamy Henry, Ade Edmondson, and so on. This dearth presumably explains why *The Last of the Summer Wine* has for several years occupied the august mid-Sunday-evening slot on BBC1, a pride of place its stock of drearily geriatric jokes has never deserved, and why the dismal *Allo 'Allo* and *Hi-de-Hi!* have enjoyed an unearned popularity. This bizarre state of affairs has come about because, for those viewers un-receptive to the marginalism of Ben Elton and his ilk, there is not a lot of choice.

With minimum enterprise, however, the BBC has created a choice by making inordinate space in its schedules for what it calls "Comedy Classics" — what a mischievous (or honest) announcer might introduce with "And now



The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin (top) with John Barron (left), Pauline Yates and Leonard Rossiter: a decade ago, "fine comic acting and scriptwriting". Victoria Wood (centre), "the funniest woman on television". Hitting the spot, Channel Four's *The Golden Girls* (above)

for something completely familiar". Take Monty Python, for example, which was once completely different: the BBC is currently dredging up a big chunk of the *Flying Circus* back catalogue. Recent weeks have also seen an unwrinkled *Dad's Army* back on duty, despite the passing away of several of its principals: *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*,

though its star Michael Crawford long ago moved on, is going strong; and the *Two Ronnies* have also had yet another re-run. By giving its viewers "another chance to see..." the BBC acknowledges the current dearth of good comedy. It gets away with it because British viewers have a limitless appetite for nostalgia. It used to be Granada, dishing out

expensive doses of ersatz Edwardiana, that fed this appetite. Nowadays, 30 minutes of *Steptoe and Son* do the trick nicely.

Of the sit-coms which have in recent years come up to standards set in the 1970s, only *Yes*, *Minister*, *Only Fools and Horses*, and *Blackadder* come to mind. All of them, like the Dick Clement and Ian Le Frenais collaborations on *The Likely Lads* and *Porridge* — to name but two more periodically exhumed sit-coms of 10 which come to mind — could be relied upon for excellence week in week out. Currently there are no plans, however, to make further series of any of them: the next time you see them on your screen, the jokes will probably ring a bell.

On ITV, the picture is even worse. The channel, where for far too many years Benny Hill has perpetuated the inequality of the sexes, tends to be a graveyard for intelligent mainstream comedy. Having subsidised their defection from Television Centre, Thames continued to take the sting out of *Morcambe & Wise* and Mike Yarwood. Nowadays, ITV can be relied upon to broadcast five or six lamentable sit-coms every week — *After Henry*, for example (a shameless *Prunella Scales* vehicle), or *The Two of Us* (a shameless Nicholas Lyndhurst vehicle).

Independent Television is also, however, where the best mould-breaking British comedy is to be found, though again it is for strictly specialist tastes. Channel 4's *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* is the exhibition room of British alternative comedy, but its improvisation format, and more particularly John Sessions's PhD witticisms, keep at arm's length more viewers than they ought. Central's indispensable *Spitting Image*, which recognises the unexplored depths of bad taste, alienates a large body of viewers (the largest body being royalists and Conservatives) through its willingness to offend.

Julian Clary's *Sticky Moments* (Channel 4), a bitchy, high-camp game show, is no friendlier to the middle-of-the-road viewer. An androgynous hybrid clad in what could be David Bowie's 1973 space-age cast-off, Clary uses the show to blow his own trumpet, and he blows it well, especially when quoting shocked viewers' complaints.

There are only two younger comedians working today who would indisputably have been popular 10 years ago. Who could deny Victoria Wood the accolade "the funniest woman on television" (notwithstanding the failed marriage of stand-up and sit-com in her latest series)? And who could deny that Stephen Fry is her male counterpart? His heroic ad-lib at the *Hyde Park 2 Aids* benefit (shown on television at the beginning of December), when he filled in for three minutes to cover up a back-stage cock-up, said it all: prodigiously creative, clever, compassionate and (in the secondary sense) hysterical. Why don't they make more like him? They certainly used to.

Hint of hibernation

CONCERTS
Hilary FinchLSO/Hickox
Barbican Hall

A James-faced programme greeted the first Sunday of the year at the Barbican. Vaughan Williams's *Hodie* looked back to the yesterday of Christmas; *Carmen* barreled forward to the first green of spring.

The Trinity Boys' Choir joined the London Symphony Chorus and conscientiously took upon themselves the gently declamatory narrative of Vaughan Williams's Christmas cantata. Even their five, untrained voices could hardly lift the burden of the word-setting; this is Milton with muffled wine, the incantation on a comfortably well-fed English stomach.

Richard Hickox roused his players for a cracking invocation to the "Bright portals of the sky" and an Epiphany March savage with exotic orientalisms. Philip Langridge and Elizabeth Gale (replacing an indisposed Pavarotti) kept eagerly at the few moments in which the words catch

fire. Stephen Roberts, like the composer himself, was most inspired in the intimate address of George Herbert's "Pastoral".

Something of the consoling piety of Vaughan Williams's Christmas found its way, also, into Carl Orff's "Secular songs for soloists and chorus with instruments and magical pictures". Perhaps it needs too great a leap of the aural imagination to set flowing the sap of spring at a time of natural hibernation. It was certainly a leap which, despite some lively and enthusiastic orchestral playing, neither Hickox nor his chorus seemed willing to make.

Articulation was clear enough, but rhythms sagged somewhat under the soft Italianate consonants, and through energy being concentrated too much in the dental regions and not enough in the diaphragm. Stephen Roberts was simply misused; the verbal purity and neat phrasing which he is skilled in no substitute for sheer range and projection.

If Hickox held back from enjoying the swinging rhythms and cross-currents of Orff's dance and delight, at least two of his soloists, James Bowman as the swan and Penelope Walsby as Clark as the scarlet-clad girl, relished their redistributions.

New year, new works

Sean Doran

New Vintage 1990
Amsterdam

De Suite, the promotional body for Dutch new music, has just launched its most enterprising season yet. New Vintage 1990/ Muziek in Perspectief includes a special series of five concerts in the excellent acoustic of the Kleine Zaal at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam. The Perspectives element of the programming comprises a lurid mixture of composer combinations, such as Boulez/Feldman, Rouse/Ligeti, and Ravel/Cage, to be played by the new young talent that De Suite aims to spotlight for the international circuit. The New Vintage uncovers a commission for each concert for a young Netherlands composer whose work is aptly influenced by one or other of the above musical forebears.

The first in the series, a programme of Mozart and Schoenberg with a premiere by Gerda Geertens, took place last week with the young Ter Haar/Van Els string trio (formed in 1985) playing through the evening to a final standing ovation. Whether the ovation arose from barely recovered New Year revelry or insider support (as we have on our British new-music circuit) one could not say. Unexpectedly, a rather over-mature composure held sway throughout; more nerve and ingenuity would have been welcome. Yet this restrained

approach also brought a clarity and well balanced sound that was faithful to the three composers.

The 10-minute premiere, entitled *Slinger* (Pendulum), proved disappointing. Certainly it was confidently written in the atonal, dodecaphonic style, and eruditely furnished with the familiar accompanying effects of that style: hanging harmonics (here creating a most uninspiring opening) and Webern-like bouncing of the bow above quietly-held chords. When excitement came, it was generated by some razor-sharp, raucous, rhythmic snapping between the instruments, and some well constructed melodic lines.

But none of these proceeded further than their historical precedents. Absent were ideas for instrumental idiosyncracies, counterpoint or even harmonic colour, all usually essential to Gerda Geertens's style. *Slinger* provides us with much angst, building and nervous but little musical meaning or argument.

After an over-stated performance of Mozart's *Divertimento* in E flat, KV563, it was Schoenberg's String Trio of 1946 that proffered the smelling salts, its partly-hidden tongue-in-cheek humour masks the reality of the composer's premonition of his own death at the time of writing. The Ter Haar/Van Els trio relayed this superbly, though again the emphasis was on seriousness and sadness, whereas there is scope for humour in this piece. The next concert and premiere in the series is on March 15.

Return proves the wisdom of choice

Noël Goodwin

Barbican Piano Trio
Purcell Room

As a curtain-raiser to the Park Lane Group's "Young Artists and 20th Century Music" this week, one of last year's most successful groups was presented again. The Barbican Piano Trio baffle their relative youthfulness by the mature assurance of their playing, both as a group in which individuality of musical character is kept as an integral element, and in solo and duo performances too.

The programme was one of the two Prizma Rainer Memorial Concerts this month, given with the support of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. It separated the Trio's cellist, Robert Max, and pianist, Rebecca Holt, to perform Rainer's *Grand Duo*, composed three years before her death in 1986. Such virtuoso writing in partnership, laconic in thought and pungent in thematic and harmonic angularity, demands animated dialogue of conviction,

which was convincingly provided in each player's passionately articulated contribution.

The cellist's strong attack and richly resonant yet finely graded tone was also heard in the *Trois Strophes* composed by Henri Dutilleul in tribute to Paul Sacher. It covers a wide range of cello technique, and was here commandingly played from memory.

A corresponding violin solo featured Sophie Barber in the *Bluegrass Variations* Martin Butler wrote as a stylistic challenge for competition entrants, an abstraction of American regional music into cheerfully allusive elements, vividly projected.

All three players came together only at the beginning and end. In its three-movement focus on melodic, harmonic and rhythmic elements in turn, Hugh Wood's finely crafted Piano Trio of 1984 acquired greater elation and swing vitality than when I last heard it five years ago, and the degree of sheer hard work needed to realize the venerable but richly resonant Trio (1911) by Charles Ives was forthcoming to good purpose.

Misplaced enthusiasm

Stephen Pettitt

Premiere Ensemble/
Wigglesworth
St John's

The Premiere Ensemble prides itself on being an orchestra with the probably unique policy of playing a new work in every concert it gives. On the face of it the idea is excellent, though a complementary group dedicated to giving second and third performances might also be useful. In the case of Nigel Clarke's *Rain Dance*, the piece which the Ensemble chose to reveal to the world on Sunday, further performances might reveal to a few more the emptiness that lies underneath its extravagance of notes.

Clarke writes energetically, and he is fluent, perhaps even obsessed, with the entire gamut of orchestral effects — twitters, rumblings, harmonics, clusters, splashes of percussion and all. Yet these things are strung together without a mind for anything save the immediate moment. The qual-

ity of genuine invention is low; feeling for shape and proportion absent, intellectual and inspirational substance minimal. Sheer brazenness — and *Rain Dance* has plenty of that — cannot conceal such shortcomings.

Nor can a performance as committed and accomplished as that which Mark Wigglesworth, winner of last year's International Kodranshin Competition, effected from his excellent young musicians. They obviously found the piece fun to play. Their art was tested far more severely, however, by Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony and by Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*. The Schoenberg was shaped expertly by Wigglesworth, who managed to make the textures clear even in this acoustic. A couple of nervous technical slips from horn and clarinet apart, the performance was also technically assured, the players acutely responsive to Wigglesworth's confident and eloquent gestures: as in the Mahler where Jean Rigby's mezzo-soprano, aptly posited dark and rich, balanced the feelings of urgency and numb mourning with singing of well-controlled breath.

Black humour lost in translation

THEATRE

Diane Hill

Woza Albert!
Bouffes de Nord, Paris

One of the penalties of being a director as exceptional as Peter Brook is that you are condemned to brilliance. Anything less is inevitably seen as second-best. By most standards, his French production of the South African play *Woza Albert!*, premiered in Paris, is good theatre. Rated according to Brook's own track record, however, it falls a long way short of great theatre. Complacent excellence hovers over the performance pit that Brook has carved out of the eroded splendours of this illustrious building.

Mtwa, Ngeme and Simon's now nine-year-old anti-apartheid tale of a Second Coming by jumbo jet, that ends with Christ hounded by whites as a communist terrorist and Cape Town in post-nuclear ruins, due to an administrative error, runs home its shamefully still valid message with home truths baked within a chocolate custard pie. Brook's knowing direction, with its impeccable, polished precision, reshapes the play's effective farce mechanism into a more cerebral machine.

Primitive outrage is honed deftly into reasoned injustice. The authors' heavily-accented, bible-black, knockabout verbal humour, best delivered with the force of a gold-miner's steel-capped working boot, is skillfully ill-shod in the calfskin-soft sophistication of Jean-Claude Carrière's studied adaptation.

Whether it was true to the Market Theatre's original production or not, the Temba Theatre Company's recent London revival was founded on authenticity. The language rang true and Alby James's direction poked you in the eye while tickling you under the chin. The performers sucked you inside their black skin and defied you to laugh your way out of it.

In this production, the work's essential ethnic ebullience is tamed by white man's syntax, its



Fine actors, under-used: Mamadou Dioume (left) and Bakary Sangaré

defiance paled by received, not lived, South African imagery. The handful of props — a rough-bewn wooden pallet, a scatter of house bricks and a couple of industrial plastic buckets — evoke not emotional minimalism but an impoverished emptiness that serves to clip the wings of an audience's own free-flying imagination.

Despite, or perhaps because of, its strong African connections, France has no black theatre and few black performers. *Woza*'s two-man cast, Mamadou Dioume (from Senegal) and Bakary Sangaré (from Mali) met Brook when he was on one of his cultural safaris in Africa, and he cast them for his Indian epic *The Mahabharata*. They are undoubtedly fine actors and a welcome addition to the French theatre scene. This production, however, does not give them the means to unleash the best of themselves.

Constrained within the staid shallows of the direction, they are unable to plunge naturally into the play's more serious depths, nor to frolic unselfconsciously in the invigorating breakers of its pointed humour. The act of smearing a streak of white on their nose to signify white authority is an awkward, theatrically clumsy gesture that requires fumbling in a pocket for a tube of grease-paint and ducking behind whatever is in hand, to put it on or wipe it off.

Woza Albert! is the final plum in a short season of South African music and theatre at this address. Organized within the framework of a celebration of the year of the Rights of Man and Liberty, with patrons including Madame la Présidente, Danielle Mitterrand, the play's entry into the French repertoire is an event that does not live up to its impressive credentials.

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Let it freeze! The new fashion season brings with it a breath of crisp fresh air and the promise of a blizzard of fashionably chunky new sweaters in which "soggy warm. Long and loose, the sloppy joe is unquestionably the sweater of the season, a stylish tunic that conforms to the chic concept of functional dress and can be pulled on comfortably over a snug layer of tights, vest, leggings and T-shirt. Ruggedly textured and relaxed in shape — mostly straight up and down, with a simple funnel-shaped collar that can be elongated to a hood, it also happens to be easy and quick to knit, the chic end-product of a few long evenings spent at home.

Knitwear designer Angela King was commissioned by *The Times* to create some fast-to-knit patterns that incorporate dashing checks and bold tweed effects, and she came up with one bright idea after another. Her three exclusive knitting designs are emphatically patterned in monochromatic black and cream, and sport the added hoods or cowls (detached in two of the styles) that reflect the relaxed "locker-room sweatshirt" design ethos of 1990. They are worked in a double thickness of wool that makes them remarkably quick to knit. Apart from the ease and exuberance that this added weight provides, it also makes them hard-wearing.

These are all thoroughly modern, sophisticated designs, with nothing folksy or homespun about them. There is "sweat" and considerable sophistication, too, in wearing something that has been worked by hand. Even the inevitable quirkiness that results adds to the energetic spirit of these three sweaters.

The straightforward sloppy joe is worked in graphic hound's-tooth-check with a plain roll neck. The extra tube of knitting doubles as a cowl hood, or even a muff. A neat and very un-sloppy cropped turtleneck sweater is worn with matching short skating skirt that flares from a ribbed waistband, and has a separate, buttoned, helmet-style hood. Hands can be sunk comfortably into the deep pockets let into the seams of the chunky checked jacket which, with its square-set sleeves and sharp-angled hood, looks like a duffel, especially if toggles and loops replace the large buttons and buttonholes.

Much of the sophistication of these three designs depends on the play of strong contrasts and textures, which works best in black and cream, as here.

When something comes into fashion everyone wants it straight away, and any one of these sweaters can be completed in under two weeks, says, "Even beginners can get encouragingly quick results." She claims that the cropped sweater and skating skirt can be tackled by any



beginner who can cast on and understands purl and plain. It is worked in simple stocking stitch and single ribbing. "The most difficult is the hooded duffel style in the big checks," she says, "but as only two colours are used anyone who has mastered a basic Fair Isle skirt can do it. The hooded jacket works out the most

expensive style of the three, at £55.77 (one size only). The hound's-tooth sweater costs £45.63 for the smallest size (including hood). The simplest to knit, the short sweater with skating skirt and close-fitting helmet, adds up to £42.25 for the smallest size. See captions for how to send for the free pattern leaflet.

precision, but no chart is necessary as the pattern is built around one row of 'k1 black, k3-cream', with the three subsequent rows that complete the pattern being variations on this stitch. "Knitted in Jaeger Sport pure new wool, which costs £1.69 for a 50g ball, the hooded jacket works out the most

expensive style of the three, at £55.77 (one size only). The hound's-tooth sweater costs £45.63 for the smallest size (including hood). The simplest to knit, the short sweater with skating skirt and close-fitting helmet, adds up to £42.25 for the smallest size. See captions for how to send for the free pattern leaflet.



Among the prettiest all-in-ones that supply a warmth-trapping first layer is this lace-trimmed, striped body from Fenwick. In pale blue or pink and white polyester, cotton and Lycra (a Spandex blend that ensures a fit like a second skin), and priced at £37.95, it is part of a snug set of underpinnings by Capucine. A long vest (also £37.95), soft bra (£21.95) and deep-cut brief (£16.95) complete the set. Other pretty first layers include the Swiss company Haur's short-sleeved bodies in sleek cotton at £19.95, or wool long-sleeved vests at £31.95, available at Fenwick. Damart's new spring-printed camisole (£8.50) and knickers (£7.99), as well as its silk and Thermolactyl lace-trimmed vests and knickers, priced from £8.99, are available by post from Damart, Bingley, West Yorks BD97 1AD.

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● The new term at *Liberty's* successful Sewing School starts on January 16. The school offers one-day workshops from 10.30am to 5.30pm, or five-week courses of two-and-a-half hours a week. The courses cater for everyone from beginners to those who want to polish up techniques or learn new skills. Write to Liberty Sewing School, Regent Street, London W1R 6AH for registration forms (01-734 1234).

Plastic passion

Plastic was hailed as the fabric of the 21st century in the futuristic Sixties. In 1990 the V & A brings plastic fashion up to date with an exhibition that links Paco Rabanne's famous Sixties chain mail and vinyl minidresses, and Mr Freedom's wet-look "bingo" jacket, to Red or Dead's see-through wedding dress for spring 1990. "Plastics in Dress" opens on January 15 in Gallery 40 in the V & A's Dress Collection, to celebrate "The Plastics Age", the major exhibition opening in the Twentieth-Century Gallery on February 14.



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INFORMATION SERVICE

Cycling through Brahms



Tomorrow night the West German pianist Gerhard Oppitz (above) gives the first of four Wigmore Hall recitals at which he will play Brahms's complete original works for solo piano. These divide into three main groups centring on the huge sonatas of Brahms's youth, the middle period variation sets and the short but highly concentrated late pieces, and Oppitz includes something from each category in each of his programmes. Tomorrow night, he performs the Sonata Opus 5, the Rhapsodies Opus 79 and the Pianos Opus 119. Born in Bremen, Germany, in 1953, Oppitz completed his studies with Wilhelm Kempff and made his international breakthrough in 1977, when he was the first German to win the Arthur Schnitzler Competition in Israel. He now appears all over Europe, the US and in Japan, and otherwise teaches at the Munich Academy of Music, to which in 1981 he was the youngest professor ever to be appointed. Oppitz's recent records include Reger's seldom-heard Piano Concerto and Beethoven's sonatas. The first piano to play Brahms's complete original piano output at the Wigmore Hall in a decade, he performs entire cycles, such as Bach's *Das wohltemperierte Klavier* or the Beethoven sonatas. His remaining Brahms evenings are on February 9, March 2 and 29, Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £4-£7. Max Harrison

absence, and every inch a rock star for these adult orientated, CD-enriched times. Temple Park Centre, John Reid Rd, South Shields (01458 5119) 7.30pm, £13-£15.

★ **THE HOUSE OF LOVE:** Guitarist Terry Bickers resigned before Christmas and is now replaced by Simon Walker (of the Dave Howard Singers). New single, a revamped version of "Shine On" is released on Jan 22 and a John Peel session is in the air. Hartlepool Borough Hall, North Gate (0423 265222) 8pm, £5.

★ **JAZZ**

★ **HAL GALPERIN:** First of three nights from the American pianist who has just released a new Concord album, *Portrait*. Backing from the Peter Lind Trio. Bass: Cecil, 38 Cornhill St, London N1 (01-226 2478) 8.45pm, £5.

★ **JOHN DANCOWITZ:** Reaction time as the saxophonist-composer brings together players from his big band and the Darksworld Seven. Support from the Brian Davis Trio. Rooms 301, 47 Fifth St, London W1 (01-438 0747) 9.30pm, £10 (members £2). To 200.

★ **KING SALSA:** Percussionist Robin Jones leads the exuberant Latin 12-piece. Double Bass, 102-104 Earls Court Rd, London SW5 (01-835 2021) 9.30pm, £5.50.

★ **LAVERNE BUTLER:** Sophisticated overtones from the American singer, backed by the life of pianist Mick Pym. Plaza On The Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5550) two sets, 9.15pm, ring for prices. To Sat.

★ **DANCE**

★ **THE NUTCRACKER:** Peter Schaufuss's complicated version of the Tchaikovsky classic for English National Ballet. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-226 8800), 7.30pm, £5-£19.50.

★ **OPERA**

★ **OTELLO:** Second night of four in current Royal Opera revival of Elisha Costanzo's Verdi revival, with Carlos Kroeber conducting cast led by Plácido Domingo and Kiri Te Kanawa. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086) 7.30-10.15pm, £7-£29.

★ **HANS AND GRETEL:** English National Opera's new year new opera, continues its run in the last night that Elinor Robinson and Kathryn Pope take the title roles, conducted by Mark Elder. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086) 7.30-10.15pm, £7-£29.

★ **GALLERIES**

★ **DAVID LEVERETT:** The Sacred Garden series of paintings. Riverside, 30 Cork St, London, W1 (01-734 1724), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until Feb 10.

★ **ALFRED MURKIN'S R.A. (1875-1959):** A full survey of work by the horse painter. Cassen Museum, Norwich (0603 222222), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until Feb 18.

★ **OUT OF THE WOOD:** The two as image and symbol in the work of contemporary artists such as Andy Goldsworthy. Cleveland Crafts Centre, 57 Gilkes St, Middlesbrough (0642 223881), Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, free, until Feb 10.

★ **PHOTO-SCULPTURE:** Works by sculptors such as Boyd Wells and Ron O'Donnell who make casts and then photograph them. Warehouse 1, Cannon Rd, Bristol (0272 253845), Mon-Sat, 10am-10pm, Sun 11am-10pm, free, until Jan 26.

★ **A BOCHENKO (1891-1951) AND V. STEPANOVA (1894-1958):** Works in a range of media by two of the most influential avant-garde Russian artists whose activities were eventually outlawed by Stalin. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W8 (01-402 0843), daily 11am-4.30pm, free, until Jan 28.

★ **GILLIAN AYRES:** Recent, large and colourful abstract paintings by a leader of the 1970s. Tate Gallery, Manchester (061 228 7821), Tues-Sun noon 6pm, free, until Jan 28.

★ **JOHN MOORE'S 16:** Paintings selected from an open submission of work by many of the country's best artists in the competition won by Lisa Wilby's picture of 16 drawer handles. Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool (051 207 0001), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until Jan 14.

★ **WALKS**

★ **THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TRAIL OF SHYVETRY - A WOODHOUSE TOUR:** Meet Baker Street tube, 10.30am, £3 (01-937 4281).

★ **THE BURIED CITY - LONDON BENEATH THE STREETS:** Meet Baker Street tube, 11.30am, £2 (01-432 4281).

★ **THE JACK THE RIPPER MURDER TRAIL:** Meet Whitechapel tube, 7.30pm, £4 (01-688 4019).

★ **TALKS**

★ **GALLERY LECTURE:** Richard Sherry, National Portrait Gallery, Room 12, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552), 1.10pm, free.

★ **OTHER EVENTS**

★ **BOTHY'S IN SUSSEX SALES:** The morning's sale of Fine English and Continental Furniture at 10am, includes Victorian and Edwardian pieces. The two periods are currently enjoying a revival both for the innovators such as William Morris and the copiers of French, neo-classical and Gothic styles. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Basingstoke, West Sussex (0433 783939).

★ **"ART WORKS":** An exhibition of work by the pupils of Robert Rauschenberg's department showing a wide range of areas of study - drawing, painting, graphics, photography, three-dimensional design and sculpture - which illustrates the new changes laid down by the GCSE and A level syllabuses. Boston Guildhall Museum, South St, Boston, Lincolnshire (0205 89241), Jan 31, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Adult 40p, child under 16 free.

★ **LA LOCA:** See picture. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-730 1017), 7.30pm, £5.

★ **BOOKINGS**

★ **FIRST CHANCE**

★ **LAST CHANCE**

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

★ **BOOKING KEY**
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(Q) Access for disabled

THEATRE LONDON

★ **ANYTHING GOES:** Elaine Paige getting a kick out of Cole Porter's hit musical: shipboard romance, intrigue and "You're the Top". Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1 (01-734 5121), Tube: Leicester Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30-9.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat 2.30-4.45pm, 29-£22. (Q)

★ **BENT:** Ian McKellen, Michael Coshman in revival of Martin Sherman's powerful drama of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252), Tube: Waterloo, in reviver, Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Opens Jan 15, 7pm, then in rev. Previews and Sat mats 26-£12.50; even from Jan 19 £12.50. All weekday mats 28.

★ **BOOTS FOR THE FOOTLESS:** Brian Behan's Irish comedy set mostly in 1951 London, year of the Festival of Britain. Tricycle Theatre, 289 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (01-328 1000), Tube: Kilburn, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, £4.50-£2.

★ **FUNNY PECULIAR:** Robin Kermode, Hilary Crosson, Jill Johnson in cheering revival of Mike Scott comedy about how to ginger up a stale marriage. Wyndham Theatre, Puddle Dock, EC4 (01-236 5569), Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 9pm, mats Fri and Sat 6.30pm, 25.50-£12.50.

★ **OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD:** Triple award-winning play by Timberlake Wertenbaker, set in New South Wales in which a batch of convicts is ordered to become actors. Cottesloe Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, EC2 (01-376 6107), Tube: Leicester Sq, Mon-Thurs 8-10.20pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.35pm, mats Fri and Sat 5.7-7.20pm, £7.50-£15.

★ **THE PELICAN:** Second in this theatre's occasional series of Spring's chamber plays: this one modernizes Peter Melville's love. Gate Theatre, 289 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (01-328 1000), Tube: Kilburn, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, £4.50-£2.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** Celia New London Theatre (01-406 0072) ... ★ **La**

★ **THE AMERICAN POET, LA LOCA** (above), known as "the crazy woman", stops off in London tonight en route to the US from Eastern Europe to give a reading of her work at the ICA (see Other Events). La Loca's first visit to Britain last year to the National Review of Life Art at Glasgow's Third Eye Centre was met with considerable acclaim. Born in Hollywood, La Loca gave her first poetry reading at the legendary Lhasa Club and won the Academy of American Poets College Prize in 1986. Two recording contracts have recently been secured and her most popular poem, "Adventures on the Isle of Adolescence", is currently under production as an animated film.



★ **TOP 10 UK SINGLES**

★ **TOP 10 UK ALBUMS**

★ **OUT OF TOWN**

★ **THE COCK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE & HER LOVER (18):** Peter Greenaway's tale of love, revenge and haute cuisine. With Richard Bohringer (120 min). Screen on New South Wales (01-535 2772), Progs 3.10, 6.00, 8.35.

★ **THE DEAD POETS SOCIETY (PG):** Robin Williams as an English teacher who instils his pupils with a dangerous love of poetry (128 min). Wellesley College (01-727 6705), Progs 2.10, 5.25, 8.10, Late Fri, Sat 11.00. (Closed Sun).

★ **THE DREAM TEAM (12):** Madcap adventures of four mental hospital patients loose on Manhattan (113 min). Cannon Pictures Road (01-370 2636), Progs 1.40, 6.10, 9.20. (Closed Sun).

★ **THE DELINQUENTS (12):** A routine story of delinquent teenagers in the Fifties with Kylie Minogue (90 min). Cannon Pictures Road (01-370 2636), Progs 2.15, 6.15, 9.15.

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★ **FIELD OF DREAMS (PG):** Kevin Costner as a farmer encouraged by a celestial voice to use his cornfield for a baseball pitch (106 min). Band Aid II, PWL, Cannon Pictures Road (01-370 2636), Progs 2.15, 6.15, 9.15.

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★ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE (15):** Pauline Collins repeats her stage role as the Liverpool housewife rediscovers romance (108 min). Band Aid II, PWL, Cannon Pictures Road (01-370 2636), Progs 2.15, 6.15, 9.15.

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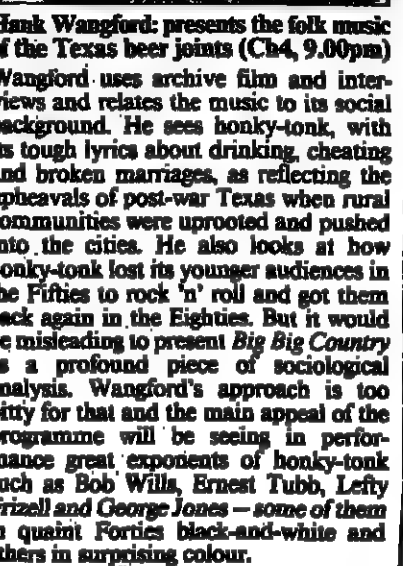
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★ **THE DREAM TEAM (12):**

Peter Waymark

Continuing its pursuit of injustice against Libyians (BBC, 8.00pm) appears to have hit upon a prime example. The programme looks at the deaths and injuries to British servicemen from heat strokes during training exercises. Over the past decade the tally is at least 13 dead and 650 injured, which would seem to be an extraordinary high price to pay for the services' desire to sort the men from the boys. The Ministry of Defence is reluctant to change the system and the behaviour of fellow officers beggars belief. A naval sub-lieutenant who collapsed in the New Forest was allegedly pulled up by his hair, lit on the head and left unattended for half an hour in the sun. A passer-by saw the incident but offered to take the man to hospital but was refused. The spent days in a coma and had brain damage. The findings of the army's own inquiry have never been released. No one was disciplined.



SATELLITE

The Channel Four Deal

the incident was seen through the eyes of a young girl whose father was killed in action

2:00-12:05am Weather

6.00 **ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00

**Boss? 7.30-8.00 Survival 8.00-10.00 Equalizer
12.35am Tour of Duty 1.30 Wrestling 2.30 Film:
Target: Harry 4.05 About Britain 4.30-5.00 Farming
News**

Away 7.00 Nutsch 7.00 Curse 7.30 Glenroe 8.00
Streets of San Francisco 8.00 Empty Nest 8.30 Top
of the Hill 10.30 News 10.50 Nightbirds 11.30
Executive Stress 15.00 Closedown

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

RADIO CHOICE

...ional 11.00 World News 11.10
 ...s About Britain 11.15 Waveguide
 ... London's Mast 12.00 Newsrel
 ... Muckrack 1 12.45 Sports
 ...up 1.00 World News 1.09 24 Hours
 ... Summary and Financial News 1.30
 ... UK 2.00 World News; Outlook
 ... Off the Shelf: The Captain's Daughter
 ... The Art of James Galtway 3.00
 ... 3.15 A Jolly Good Show 4.00
 ... News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15
 ... English 4.35 News About 5.00 World
 ... 5.35 Commentary 5.15 The World
 ... 5.50 London's Sol 6.14 News
 ... News in English 6.15 BBC English
 ... News About 7.00 German Features
 ... Macintosh 8.00 World News 8.09
 ... Today 8.25 World's Fair 8.30
 ... 8.40 Sports Roundup 9.15
 ... 9.30 Macintosh 10.00

piano, perform Britten
(Surre, Op 6); Derek Cooley
(Contrasts); Robert Russett
Bennett (Hexapoda)
1.25 BBC Welsh Symphony
Orchestra under Richard
Armstrong, with Christian
Zacharias, piano, performs
Mozart (Overture, La
clemenza di Tito);
Beethoven (Piano Concert
No 4 in G; Sibelius (The
Swan of Tuonela;
Symphony No 5 in E flat).
Incl 12.10pm interval
Raising

Am Grabe Anselmus;
Freiwilliges Versinken;
der Donau; Wehmut;
Abendbilder; Das
Zugenglohnlein;
Totengrüßer-Weise; Lie-
"Die Mutter Erde";
Veränderung; Dem
Unendlichen

\$2.20 Drama Now: Indigo Den
black comedy by James
Douglas (see Choice)

\$3.39 BBC Symphony Orchest
in Huddersfield under F
Boulez, with Yvonne Lo
piano, performs Boulez
(East/Multiplex); Stravi

3.00 **news: Thirty Minutes**
Theatre: Going up,
Down, by Martin W.
With Norman Jones
Ibbotson 3 (see Ch
3.22 **Richard Baker** Com
Notes with viola pa

10.00 The World Today
Alexander MacLennan

10.05 A Book at Bedtime
Chamberley's Look
D.H. Lawrence

11.00 Emmanuë - The
4: The Great Tr
eight-part histor
cinema, narrate
Christopher Fr
Today in Port
12.00-12.30am News
Weather 12.30
Forecast
FM at 1.5 except
11.00am-12.00 For
1.55pm Listening Co

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Brotherly support across a border river



Soviet Azerbaijanis in the foreground on the north bank of the Aras river at Nakhichevan shout to their relatives across the Iranian frontier, in one of the first photographs revealing growing nationalist movement in the border region.

At least 15 Soviet Azerbaijani youths have swum the icy cold waters of the river cheered on by Iranian Azerbaijanis amid repeated calls for an open border. One drowned but

four have since returned home carrying a Koran in what was seen as a clear move by the youths to discover their Muslim roots.

The show of nationalist fervour has caused concern in Moscow and already led to the dismissal of the Communist chief in the region.

On Sunday an Iranian member of parliament armed with a loudspeaker urged Soviet Muslims to end their demonstrations

on the other side of the river. The Iranian news agency IRNA said about 1,000 people, who live in the enclave ruled by Azerbaijan, gathered on the river to chant Islamic slogans. Iranians gathered on their side to express support.

On Saturday rioting Soviet Azeris were reported to have torn down border installations. Southern Soviet Azerbaijan belonged to Iran until 1920.

East German opposition walks out in security row

Continued from page 1

lous Security and Herr Walter Halbritter, the Government's representative at the talks.

The atmosphere at the sixth round-table session had been made tense when Herr Koch admitted that of the 85,000 full-time former employees of the Office for National Security, 60,000 were still in possession of arms.

The Government promised two months ago that the hated state security service, the Stasi, would be reformed and then a month ago agreed to opposition demands to dissolve the Office of National

Security completely. Herr Koch told the opposition that the service was being dismantled "step by step" and said that there had been problems finding new jobs for former workers.

He also promised that the practise of bugging East Germans whom the authorities believed politically suspect has now been stopped.

His account was greeted with anger and disbelief by the opposition representatives, many of whom had to be restrained from leaving the table immediately.

The opposition fears that ex-Stasi workers will be restored to state posts if the

Communist-led Government succeeds in founding an agency to combat right-wing groups in the country and an information service, ostensibly to control neo-Nazism.

The fracas is the culmination of a week of growing tension around the talks. The atmosphere worsened last Thursday when opposition participants claimed that they were being belatedly informed of the government's legislative plans and were thus powerless to influence them.

Herr Modrow promised to provide more information but made clear that the Government did not see the opposition as an equal consultative partner.

Continued from page 1

A review of infant deaths showed that two other babies had died on Christmas Eve. Another two deaths occurred at the end of last week.

The team of specialists has conducted a battery of tests, and samples of air and water have been sent for analysis. Bacterial infections such as Legionnaire's disease have been ruled out. So too has a fungus, aspergillus, which can cause pneumonia, and traces of which were found in air-conditioning ducts at the hospital.

The illness has been termed by investigators as "adult respiratory distress syn-

drome". Dr Michael Rigby, a consultant in paediatric cardiology at the hospital, said yesterday: "The children all died from complete failure of the lungs. It is a severe and unusual illness complicated by heart problems and is like pneumonia."

"There is no evidence of it being caused by the common influenza virus and we are almost certain that it is not a bacterial infection."

"The most likely cause is a virus, which if a healthy adult caught it, would make them a little ill and cherty."

"We have yet to exclude by outside agents such as contamination of oxygen, ventila-

tion equipment or drugs that have been used." He said the hospital was "reasonably happy" that no other children at the hospital was at risk.

No patients have been admitted to the intensive-care unit since January 2 because of the measures. A total of 34 babies had been admitted to the unit since the beginning of December, 20 of whom had been in operating theatres.

The investigation into the cause of the deaths has been made more difficult because of an increase in cases of respiratory infections among both babies and adults recently admitted to the hospital.

Scientists search for cause Mystery virus kills babies

Political sketch

Just like the old days of the 80s

Take a cold January Monday, a drab Commons session on Social Security and a sprinkling of festive hangovers among MPs — and what's a sure-fire way of getting them all going?

Solution? Dennis Skinner, a pair of jump-leads, and a Question about the "plight of pensioners".

Pink-plink, fizz: and they were away! Skinner was in an unusually head-banging mood, even for a Skinner, and kicked-started the Chamber into a roaring start for the 90s.

"All this waffle and talk... he growled: "and a lot never got a penny piece..."

"Repay the £12 a week this Government stole from every single pensioner in the land."

The Tory side whipped themselves into a modest frenzy of indignant yelps, popping up and down (like Horncastle's Robin Squire) to protest Tory benevolence.

It was just like old times: just like the 80s. The old order might be disintegrating around us but down at the Commons they were limbering up with all the familiar exercises. Skinner on pensioners was the parliamentary equivalent of the dash from the rugby field down to the stream and back, with which our sports master used to get us all going at the beginning of a damp games session.

I mentioned that the member for Bolsover was in head-banging mood. As the row rumbled on, an unmistakable smell of model-aeroplane-gust drifted up. I peered down first at Skinner, then in the direction of Labour's Dave Nellist (Coventry SE). Mr Nellist makes a point of keeping his finger on the pulse of the under-class and regularly raises the plight of vagrant youth; and it struck me that he might have taken up glue-sniffing in a gesture of solidarity. But no: it did not seem to be coming from Nellist.

Did it, then, come from Tory MPs who had been helping their sons assemble Christmas gifts — model Trident missile kits, perhaps? The mystery was never solved and, gradually, the odour dispersed.

But not the head-banging. Without provocation, Tony

Favell (C, Stockport) launched into an uncharacteristically intemperate attack on single mothers — or rather (he implied) those whose "fault" it was that they were single. Our social security system, he felt, should not encourage these women. Favell had obviously had more seasonal charity than he could stomach, and was in a "bahl humbug" mood.

He was assisted by the (characteristically) intemperate Richard Holt (C, Lambeth). "My constituents resent paying taxes to bring up other people's children," Holt barked.

Now it was Labour's turn to be cross. Anger on the Opposition benches was spearheaded by Clare Short, a Labour spokesman.

"Cabinet Ministers" she said, looking coldly across at the Tories, "have created a significant number of lone-parents themselves". It was a beastly tactic to adopt in what is essentially a boys' game.

There was a second's hesitation — was this sort of thing — well... sporting? Then the protests broke out.

"Well it's true" said Mr Short. As if in politics that was any sort of an argument.

Junior minister Gillian Shephard was having none of it, from the boys or girls on either side. Mrs Shephard was shaping up well yesterday for the post of infant school headmistress. Government wished neither to encourage nor punish single-parent-hood, she told us with quiet command: just to give help where needed.

And when, later, argument broke out as to whether or not people were living longer under the Tories — and Harry Greenwood (C, Ealing N) said that instead of an £11 congratulatory telegram, centenarians should be able to choose a bottle of "champagne, whisky, parmapine" or a box of the fudge sold at the House of Commons shop — Mrs Shephard laid the ministerial equivalent of a schoolmistress's hand on little Harry's shoulder and told him to make the offer himself to the centenarians.

"Particularly" she said, turning gently to the babbling Greenwood, "the House of Commons Fudge".

Matthew Parris

Mandela release 'near'

Continued from page 1

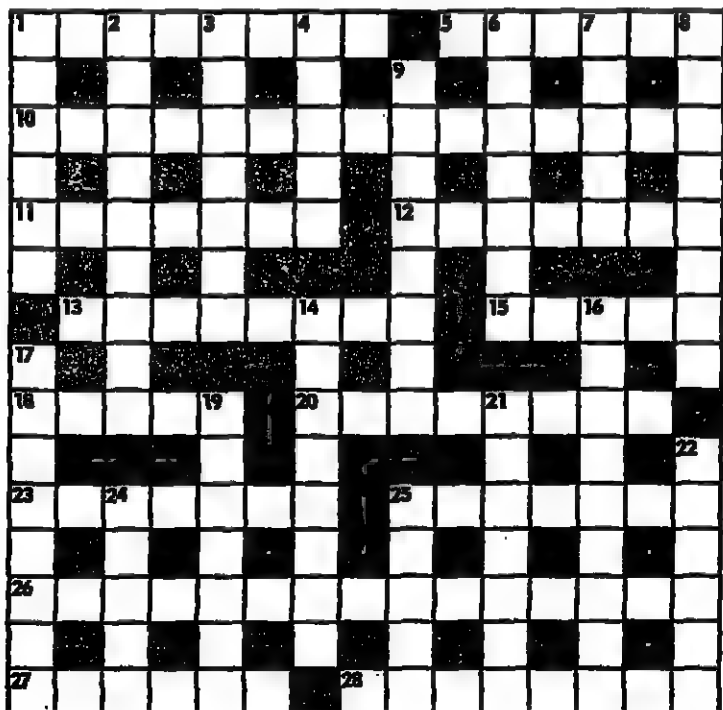
Early last month Mr de Klerk stated publicly that Mandela would be freed but added: "I'm not prepared to speculate when."

● LONDON: Sources in Whitehall said yesterday that it appeared "most likely" that Mandela would be released in late January or early February

(Andrew McEwen writes). The British Government has kept up constant pressure for his release.

Sir Robin Renwick, the British Ambassador in South Africa, raised the matter at a meeting with Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, just before Christmas.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,186



ACROSS
1 Extent to which little girl and boy go to church (8).
5 Dance garment (6).
10 Monarch who could have become a Chartist herself (7,3,5).
11 Love-bird in the first place has to be acceptable, see (7).
12 One enters "lower" here, and not the answer (7).
13 Pelican roaming around northern peak (8).
15 Once one has put the pictures back, run (5).
18 A sign to know (5).
20 Mare they broke for redskin (8).
23 Is plentiful because without limit (7).
25 Flap when officer's in a state (7).
26 Should valet shave first, perhaps, for the thanksgiving service? (7,8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,185
SATRAP SHERATON
TENSE ORO
CONVENER SUPERB
MENSE TAIL
FILIPINO DISPER
S LONESOME R T
TREE E I U E S Y
A GRANDSON A
R S E S C O T M
MUTINY TOLERANT
I W T O E E T
HEAVEN NABESANE
URE E A O T
SEDULOUS NITONS

27 Giving drugs as an invitation to entertain (8).
28 Trinity House members are in order (8).
DOWN
1 "Myself when young did eagerly frequent" and Saint (Fitzgerald) (6).
2 A quiet way to get into oil? That's a laugh (9).
3 Give drink, say, to Englishman in a flap (7).
4 Brahmin, for example, is a good man, even in another denomination (5).
6 Unable to play the ball, so out of the team (7).
7 Head off scarcity in the world (5).
8 Insurrection extinguished by a division (8).
9 Accident on transport system comes to court (8).
14 It is used to preserve secret ciphers when unscrambled (8).
16 Work study man who rescues the enemy? (4,5).
17 Girl showing enthusiasm for this colour (7).
21 A small amount in the lid, where it's usually found (7).
22 Hanging disheartened ugly devil (6).
24 It's a major risk to include Iris (5).
25 The leaders of the island race are of those people (5).

Concise crossword, page 18

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

COCKSHUT
a. Twilight
b. Tightly closed
c. A type of blunderbuss cartridge
BABY BUST
a. Fall in the birth rate
b. A lull in the rain
c. To kidnap a baby
WAKIKI
a. A breaking wave
b. A lull in the rain
c. Shell money
WAGMOIRE
a. A quadruple
b. Meek still
c. A sheriff's stipend
Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T. 423 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

It will be very windy in northern Scotland and the northern isles. Northern Ireland, Scotland and the border counties will be blustery with bright spells. Some showers will turn to sleet or snow in northern Scotland. England and Wales will be cloudy with rain, but it will become brighter in northern England, the Midlands and Wales. Outlook: unsettled and wet, with strong winds in the North and West.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1-thunder; 2-drizzle; 3-fog; 4-snow; 5-sleet; 6-sun; 7-sun; 8-sun; 9-sun; 10-sun; 11-sun; 12-sun; 13-sun; 14-sun; 15-sun; 16-sun; 17-sun; 18-sun; 19-sun; 20-sun; 21-sun; 22-sun; 23-sun; 24-sun; 25-sun; 26-sun; 27-sun; 28-sun; 29-sun; 30-sun; 31-sun; 1-mon; 2-tue; 3-wed; 4-thur; 5-fri; 6-sat; 7-sun; 8-mon; 9-tue; 10-wed; 11-thur; 12-fri; 13-sat; 14-sun; 15-mon; 16-tue; 17-wed; 18-thur; 19-fri; 20-sat; 21-sun; 22-mon; 23-tue; 24-wed; 25-thur; 26-fri; 27-sat; 28-sun; 29-mon; 30-tue; 31-wed; 1-thur; 2-fri; 3-sat; 4-sun; 5-mon; 6-tue; 7-wed; 8-thur; 9-fri; 10-sat; 11-sun; 12-mon; 13-tue; 14-wed; 15-thur; 16-fri; 17-sat; 18-sun; 19-mon; 20-tue; 21-wed; 22-thur; 23-fri; 24-sat; 25-sun; 26-mon; 27-tue; 28-wed; 29-thur; 30-fri; 31-sat; 1-sun; 2-mon; 3-tue; 4-wed; 5-thur; 6-fri; 7-sat; 8-sun; 9-mon; 10-tue; 11-wed; 12-thur; 13-fri; 14-sat; 15-sun; 16-mon; 17-tue; 18-wed; 19-thur; 20-fri; 21-sat; 22-sun; 23-mon; 24-tue; 25-wed; 26-thur; 27-fri; 28-sat; 29-sun; 30-mon; 31-tue; 1-wed; 2-thur; 3-fri; 4-sat; 5-sun; 6-mon; 7-tue; 8-wed; 9-thur; 10-fri; 11-sat; 12-sun; 13-mon; 14-tue; 15-wed; 16-thur; 17-fri; 18-sat; 19-sun; 20-mon; 21-tue; 22-wed; 23-thur; 24-fri; 25-sat; 26-sun; 27-mon; 28-tue; 29-wed; 30-thur; 31-fri; 1-sat; 2-sun; 3-mon; 4-tue; 5-wed; 6-thur; 7-fri; 8-sat; 9-sun; 10-mon; 11-tue; 12-wed; 13-thur; 14-fri; 15-sat; 16-sun; 17-mon; 18-tue; 19-wed; 20-thur; 21-fri; 22-sat; 23-sun; 24-mon; 25-tue; 26-wed; 27-thur; 28-fri; 29-sat; 30-sun; 31-mon; 1-tue; 2-wed; 3-thur; 4-fri; 5-sat; 6-sun; 7-mon; 8-tue; 9-wed; 10-thur; 11-fri; 12-sat; 13-sun; 14-mon; 15-tue; 16-wed; 17-thur; 18-fri; 19-sat; 20-sun; 21-mon; 22-tue; 23-wed; 24-thur; 25-fri; 26-sat; 27-sun; 28-mon; 29-tue; 30-wed; 31-thur; 1-fri; 2-sat; 3-sun; 4-mon; 5-tue; 6-wed; 7-thur; 8-fri; 9-sat; 10-sun; 11-mon; 12-tue; 13-wed; 14-thur; 15-fri; 16-sat; 17-sun; 18-mon; 19-tue; 20-wed; 21-thur; 22-fri; 23-sat; 24-sun; 25-mon; 26-tue; 27-wed; 28-thur; 29-fri; 30-sat; 31-sun; 1-mon; 2-tue; 3-wed; 4-thur; 5-fri; 6-sat; 7-sun; 8-mon; 9-tue; 10-wed; 11-thur; 12-fri; 13-sat; 14-sun; 15-mon; 16-tue; 17-wed; 18-thur; 19-fri; 20-sat; 21-sun; 22-mon; 23-tue; 24-wed; 25-thur; 26-fri; 27-sat; 28-sun; 29-mon; 30-tue; 31-wed; 1-thur; 2-fri; 3-sat; 4-sun; 5-mon; 6-tue; 7-wed; 8-thur; 9-fri; 10-sat; 11-sun; 12-mon; 13-tue; 14-wed; 15-thur; 16-fri; 17-sat; 18-sun; 19-mon; 20-tue; 21-wed; 22-thur; 23-fri; 24-sat; 25-sun; 26-mon; 27-tue; 28-wed; 29-thur; 30-fri; 31-sat; 1-sun; 2-mon; 3-tue; 4-wed; 5-thur; 6-fri; 7-sat; 8-sun; 9-mon; 10-tue; 11-wed; 12-thur; 13-fri; 14-sat; 15-sun; 16-mon; 17-tue; 18-wed; 19-thur; 20-fri; 21-sat; 22-sun; 23-mon; 24-tue; 25-wed; 26-thur; 27-fri; 28-sat; 29-sun; 30-mon; 31-tue; 1-wed; 2-thur; 3-fri; 4-sat; 5-sun; 6-mon; 7-tue; 8-wed; 9-thur; 10-fri; 11-sat; 12-sun; 13-mon; 14-tue; 15-wed; 16-thur; 17-fri; 18-sat; 19-sun; 20-mon; 21-tue; 22-wed; 23-thur; 24-fri; 25-sat; 26-sun; 27-mon; 28-tue; 29-wed; 30-thur; 31-fri; 1-sat; 2-sun; 3-mon; 4-tue; 5-wed; 6-thur; 7-fri; 8-sat; 9-sun; 10-mon; 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TEMPUS

Magnum force behind Tomkins

The American public's apparently insatiable appetite for handguns — sales of up to a million pistols a year, and an estimated 33 million owners — continues to mean healthy business for Mr Greg Hutchings of Tomkins.

The shares, tipped in this column for 1990 at 282p just a week ago, advanced another 2p to 295p against the market trend yesterday, and there is little in the interim figures to change that recommendation.

Pre-tax profits came in as expected at £23.3 million, a rise from £19.1 million, with a dividend increased by 35 per cent and a similar jump likely for the full year.

Mr Hutchings, the chief executive, unlike the heads of some other growth-oriented conglomerates, is wary of setting himself earnings targets that can come back to haunt him in lean times. He is again promising only an above-average performance this year.

Turnover rose by 54 per cent to £290.2 million in the first half to end-October, but this was skewed by the 1988 acquisition of Murray Ohio, the US lawnmower manufacturer, which was in for just three months last time, and actual organic growth was about 13 per cent.

A feature of the first half was a strong performance from Smith & Wesson, where a backlog of 106,000 guns left the factories on 24-hour, 7-day working, and Murray itself, which in its worst half managed to scrape to an operating profit, against losses last time.

The question mark remains its acquisition policy. Murray was the last big move, and with gearing of just 10 per cent expected at its April seasonal peak, Mr Hutchings would hardly be human if he were not eyeing the field.

Tomkins does not have a reputation for overpaying, even at the top of the US market. But any approach for, say, Delta, in which it has been required to admit a 2 per cent holding, or Low & Bonar would have to be well-pitched and well-argued.

£76 million pre-tax this year would see the shares selling on about 10.7 times future earnings, while an increased dividend would offer a yield of more than 4 per cent.

Ellis & Everard

A simple principle has enabled Ellis & Everard to grow rapidly in the eighties. The giant companies which dominate the chemicals industry worldwide want the broadest



Moving target: Greg Hutchings of Tomkins yesterday

possible spread of customers for their products. Manufacturers of that size cannot be bothered with deliveries less than a wagonload. The solution — use distributors such as Ellis, which with Hays, is one of the largest in the UK.

ICI is quite happy to share space on Ellis' lorries. Indeed, ICI has two seats on Ellis' board and shows no sign of

using its 28 per cent stake to launch a bid.

Protected by this loyal shareholder Ellis has pursued growth in two directions. It has expanded from its base in commodity chemicals into the distribution of higher margin specialties, such as water treatment.

It has also grown in the US. The acquisition of Pioneer

Chemicals and United Chemicals have doubled Ellis' US turnover.

The inclusion of Pioneer and United was the main factor behind the 59 per cent rise in sales to £143 million and 54 per cent rise in profits to £7.78 million before tax in the half-year to October. However, after growing by an average of over 25 per cent in the past five years, earnings per share were only 16 pence up at 9.3p in the first half because of the £25.5 million rights issue to help pay for the US purchases.

With Ellis' industrial customers in the UK somewhat depressed, few analysts are expecting profits to exceed £15m million and earnings are not likely to be up more than 1p at 18p, a rise of only 6 pence. That would leave the shares, at 238p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13. Demanding in the short term, but Ellis has a well established historical trend in its favour.

Goode Durrant

The good news from Goode Durrant is that the interim profits and dividend are up. Not so good news is that the motor distribution and house-building/construction activities will make 1990 tougher. Investors will not be fright-

ened out of the shares, however, which rose 8p to 119p. There was strong organic growth in the six months ended October — pre-tax profits rose from £5.47 million to £6.7 million on a turnover of £140.9 million (£109 million) — and the balance sheet remains strong.

November's three acquisitions in the vehicle rental field plus the purchase of the shipping containers. Revenue stock group will be making their first financial impact in the second half of this financial year, and gearing is still moderate enough to allow for more deals.

Pre-tax profits of about £12.3 million look possible for the year and a total 5.25p net dividend. If so, the shares offer a prospective p/e of 7.6 and a yield of 5.9 per cent. They trade at a 34 per cent discount to the market.

Two factors need to be remembered. Nash family of South Africa through Winedale holds 14.9 per cent, with options over a further 5 per cent, but because of Goode's banking licence need Bank of England permission before climbing higher. And there are still stale bulls around after the November, 1987, placing at 235p to stunt any determined rise.

Crude oil prices shed up to \$1.50 per barrel

World crude oil prices shed up to \$1.50 per barrel yesterday to just over \$20 a barrel, and experts said they looked set to tumble further, reversing their recent upward amped amid forecasts of milder weather throughout the northern hemisphere. Physical Brent blend, the North Sea marker crude, fell by \$1.45 from its close in Europe last week — as much as \$1 off Friday's already much lower New York close and West Texas Intermediate, the key US grade, opened the week \$1.05 down.

London oil traders said that the price falls will continue. "It is beginning to look like the bubble has burst completely," one declared. Yesterday Mr Ghanajir Kartasamita, the Indonesian oil minister, predicted that crude oil prices would fall to between \$17 and \$18 a barrel in the early part of this year.

Moss retires at Connell

Mr Eddie Moss, aged 57, has retired as a director and chairman and chief executive of the residential division of Connell, the residential and commercial estate agent. Mr Paul Bown, aged 38, becomes chairman of the division and Mr Stephen Shipperley, aged 31, chief executive. They were members of the board of management of the company on formation in March 1984.

Wheway rises to £8.09m

Wheway, the Birmingham-based industrial management group, made pre-tax profits of £8.09 million for the year to September, up 51 per cent on last year. Turnover rose from £77.8 million to £90.1 million, and earnings per share rose 31 per cent to 10.74p. The full-year dividend is 3p, up 36 per cent. Gearing is 18 per cent, down from 51 per cent. The shares fell 2p to 137p.

Closures answers back

In the latest round of the tussle for Metal Closures by Wassall, Metal Closures will today issue its final defence document aimed at fighting off Wassall's £51 million cash and paper bid. Wassall spoke for 38.7 per cent of its target last Friday and is extending its offer until the end of this week. In terms of two shares plus 170p cash for three Metal Closures ordinary shares, Wassall stands in the market.

Metal Closures pointed out that Wassall had received acceptances for only 1 per cent of the shares, other than the 29.96 per cent owned by Sater. Metal Closures' chairman, Mr Richard Graves, said: "Our shareholders' dismissal of this bid speaks for itself and they are advised to continue to reject it."

Trealt profits increase 24%

Trealt, the supplier of oils and aromatic chemicals, lifted pre-tax profits by 24 per cent to £1.36 million in the year to end-September. Turnover rose by 16 per cent to £11.96 million. Profit margins improved from 10.7 per cent to 11.4 per cent. Earnings per share rose from 7.96p to 9.52p. The final dividend is 3.25p, making 3.25p. The shares eased 3p to 125p.

Vardy drives past £2.3m

Reg Vardy, the County Durham motor dealer which came to the market last autumn, increased pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £2.32 million in the six months to end-October. There will be no dividend, however, until the end of the year. The advance came despite a 119 per cent rise in interest charges to £438,000. Group sales rose 34 per cent to £63.8 million.

Cooper Clarke ahead

Cooper Clarke Group, the specialist building materials distributor which came to the United Securities Market in September, raised pre-tax profits by 47 per cent to £598,000 in the six months to end-October, on turnover up 44 per cent to £11.8 million. Earnings per share rose from 4.98p to 6.68p and there is an interim dividend of 1.5p (all). Mr Robert Ashby, the chairman, said the second half has started well, with an increase in gross margins. The company has continued development of its range of specialized building products, sales of which are growing at a faster rate than those of general building materials. Mr Ashby said current and longer-term prospects are encouraging, with continued buoyancy in many areas of the building materials markets. The shares firmed 4p to 97p.

Price rise by Blue Circle

By Colin Campbell

Blue Circle is to lift the price of bulk and packed cement by 6 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, to take effect from March 1.

Delivery charges will also increase by a national average of 1.5 per cent for bulk and 1.6 per cent for packed cement. Blue Circle said both increases were below the rate of inflation, and that they were brought about because of margin pressures.

The group previously raised cement prices by 6.96 per cent for bulk and by 7.72 per cent for bag on March 1 a year ago. The previous increase was in August, 1988.

Dearer cement, at a time when housebuilding and construction activity has slowed down, will have a knock-on effect on the price of houses although industry sources say that cement costs make up only a small part of the overall house price equation.

Blue Circle tempered the announcement with a special 24-tonne bulk haulage rate to take effect from March 1.

Group seeks a 29% stake in Waterford Wedgwood

By Stephen Leather

Mr Tony O'Reilly, a former Irish international rugby winger, hopes to tackle the problems of Waterford Wedgwood, the troubled glass and china manufacturer.

Mr O'Reilly, who is chairman of HJ Heinz, is leading a group of rich investors who hope to take a 29.9 per cent stake in Waterford at less than 140p (38.05p) a share, a total investment of about £167 million.

If the deal, which is still at a preliminary stage, goes ahead, Mr O'Reilly will join the Waterford board in a non-executive role.

The news sent Waterford shares soaring, and they hit 161p on the Dublin Stock Exchange against Friday's close of 155p.

Last night Waterford shares closed in London at 57p, up 4p.

The bid to take the large stake in Waterford, which is labouring under the strain of

150 per cent gearing, comes from Fitzwilliam, Mr O'Reilly's holding company, which has the backing of wealthy investors from the United States and Canada.

Mr John Kluge, the communications tycoon, and reputed to be the richest man in America with a net worth of £3.7 billion, holds 10 per cent of Fitzwilliam, as does Mr Paul Desmarais, the Canadian billionaire. Miss Ann Getty, a member of one of the world's richest families, is also a shareholder.

Mr O'Reilly has had his sights set on Waterford for two years but pulled back from making a bid in 1988 when his interest became known and the share price rose sharply.

The company has been suffering from a downturn in sales in its crucial British and US markets.

In December the company issued a statement saying: "Our profit performance is totally



O'Reilly: hopes to join board

unsatisfactory by any standards and leaves us in a very precarious position."

The company added: "Our costs are still too high and any talk of the company being out of the woods is dangerous and leads only to a false sense of security."

Some analysts consider that Waterford is likely to report 1989 losses of £120 million after interim pre-tax

losses of £110.6 million.

It is having to pay about £120 million a year on interest charges alone.

The company is thought to have debts of about £135 million against shareholders' funds of £190 million.

Mr Paddy Hayes, Waterford's former chief executive and group chairman, resigned last April after Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, revealed that 1988 profits had been overstated by £121.5 million due to errors in accounting.

Mr Hayes is a former chief executive of Ford in Ireland who joined Waterford in 1985 and who the following year masterminded its £23 million agreed bid for Wedgwood.

He was replaced as chairman by Mr Howard Kilroy, the former deputy chairman.

Mr Paddy Byrne, the director previously responsible for Wedgwood, took over as chief executive.

Sedgwick operations reshaped

By Neil Bennett

Sedgwick Group, the insurance broker, has reorganised its worldwide operations into distinct divisions in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

From now on, the group will have four divisions, Sedgwick James, a global retail broker, Broking Services, the industrial broker, E W Payne, the world's second-largest insurance broker, and Sedgwick Lloyd's Underwriting Agents.

The move is part of a rationalization by Mr David Rowland, the chairman, to increase efficiency. When he was appointed 18 months ago, most of Sedgwick's businesses were managed in one holding company, with Fred S James, in the US, and E W Payne, the reinsurance subsidiary, managed separately.

The reorganization has been accompanied by many company name changes and a redesign of the group's logos by Holmes & Marchant. The Sedgwick globe symbol remains.

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AL to sell Wimpys for £13m

By Sam Parkhouse

Allied Leisure has agreed to sell its 20 Wimpys-franchised restaurants to Grand Metropolitan for £13 million in cash.

Mr Richard Carr, chairman of Allied Leisure, said that the move, planned since last autumn, would release funds for expansion of the company's MegaBowl ten-pin bowling interests. Allied currently runs five MegaBowl centres.

Mr Carr said Allied was keen to complete the deal before the rate reviews announced last week take effect. He said that half of the restaurants were in London's West End and could face rate rises of up to 400 per cent. This was likely to cause



Carr: sale will aid centres

"severe problems", possibly enough to turn last year's profits of £1.85 million made on the restaurants into losses.

Mr Carr said that the 20 restaurants had been perform-

ing erratically in difficult trading conditions since last July, but were expected to turn in reasonable profits.

Food retailing analysts at James Capel, the broker, said it appeared that Grand Metropolitan had paid a prospective earnings multiple of around 15 for the Wimpys.

The deal will provide useful cash for Allied, which, according to Mr Carr, is already free of debt. It allows Grand Met to increase the presence in Britain of its BurgerKing fast-food operation.

The deal requires approval by Allied's shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting on January 25.

Allied's shares rose 5p to 78p yesterday.

STC in Spanish partnership

By Nick Nattall, Technology Correspondent

STC, the telecommunications group, has signed a joint-venture deal with Radiotronics, of Spain, to develop the Spanish telecommunications market, it was announced yesterday.

The agreement with Radiotronics, one of Spain's five main telecommunications and installation companies, comes amid rapid expansion in Spanish telecoms, with the

national telephone organization, Telefonica, expected to invest more than £1.7 billion a year on its network.

Mr Roger Wood, managing director of STC Telecommunications Systems Division, described the joint venture with Radiotronics, a subsidiary of Banco Espanol de Credito (Bancro), as "very significant."

He said: "STC develops and

manufactures leading-edge products and systems. Radiotronics provides installation, commissioning and maintenance services of telecoms equipment to Telefonica and supplies turnkey telecoms systems to major Spanish public sector utilities."

Radiotronics expects the deal to bring it key products needed to capitalize on Spanish telecoms market growth.

British Gas in joint US ventures

By David Young

Energy Correspondent

British Gas is to accelerate its overseas oil and gas exploration programme by taking part in two new joint exploration ventures in the United States.

These new exploration and development initiatives — the first to be mounted by British Gas in the United States — will be carried out by a subsidiary of British Gas, BG Exploration America.

The company is to launch joint exploration programmes in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast region. A letter of intent covering on and offshore Texas exploration has been finalized with BHP Petroleum (America), a division of Broken Hill Proprietary of Australia.

A second letter of intent for exploration and development on and offshore Louisiana and Alabama has been completed with Atlantic Richfield.

The programme is likely to involve drilling about 20 exploratory wildcats throughout the Gulf Coast area.

BG Exploration America will also become involved in the development of several gas fields already operated by ARCO in the offshore Alabama area.

Aiming to concentrate on smaller companies in the West

S&P launches European unit trust

By Jon Ashworth, Berlin

European smaller companies will be the high-fliers of the 1990s, according to Save & Prosper, which has launched the first European unit trust of the decade.

Appropriately, Berlin was chosen for the launch of the European Smaller Companies Fund, which goes on offer to investors in Britain this weekend.

But gloom or not, the fund is in no hurry to venture beyond the Brandenburg Gate for its investments.

The fund will be free to invest in the emerging stock markets of Eastern Europe, but has decided to play it safe.

Instead, it will look to western European markets which it claims are under-developed, under-researched and under-capitalized.

These include the Netherlands, Spain, France and West Germany, which together account for over 70 per cent of

the portfolio. Mr Julian Tregoning, director of unit trusts, said: "As the '70s and '80s belonged to Japan and the Far East, we strongly believe that the 1990s will prove to be Europe's decade."

"Combine the European Community's single market approach with the recent dramatic events in Eastern Europe and the time must be right for investment in Europe."

Mr Chris Tracey, the investment director, said analysts would visit companies on-site before deciding whether to invest.

"There are many companies out there which are well-run, trading profitably and creating the right products for Europe. But 80 per cent of them remain totally unmonitored by European and UK investment houses and undervalued by the as yet inefficient European stock markets on which their shares are traded." The initial portfolio will be

weighted towards Spain with 19 per cent, France with 22 per cent, and West Germany with 24 per cent.

The Netherlands will account for 10 per cent, and 4 per cent will be held in cash. Smaller stakes will be held in Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Portugal, Denmark and Italy.

The minimum investment in the fund is £500 as a lump sum or £25 a month in regular savings. A bonus has been built in for investors who hold their units for at least 10 years.

Lump-sum investors receive extra units worth 10 per cent of the amount invested at launch and regular savers 10 per cent of their first year's contributions.

The fund will be managed by Mr Steven Bates, director of Fleming International Investment Management. The fixed offer period opens on January 13, and closes on February 2.

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Cost of electricity 'will fall after privatization'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Cheaper power will follow the privatization of the electricity industry, according to Mr John Wakeham, the energy secretary.

New power prices, which will come into effect on April 1 and take the industry up to its privatization in 1991, will be announced within the next few weeks.

Mr Wakeham said there was no reason why any price rises should be within the inflation range, leading to a cut in real terms in prices for the consumer.

He also hinted that the new tariff structure, which is now being finalized, could also lead to lower electricity prices for some sectors of the community. However, he did not

elaborate on whether this would mean cuts for the domestic user or for the large industrial consumers.

Mr Wakeham indicated that the cheaper coal prices to be paid over the next three years by the new privatized generating business should be passed on to the consumer.

He said: "Coal prices will continue to fall significantly in real terms throughout the years of the contract and I certainly expect this price fall to be reflected in the future levels of electricity prices. That is good news for customers."

Mr Wakeham said the new coal contracts between British Coal and the two new generating companies to be created

on privatization will allow Coal to carry on with its reconstruction against the background of firm contracts. He added that the new deal should dispel speculation of further job losses in the coal industry.

Mr Wakeham said the Government will complete its financial reconstruction of the coal industry in March this year and should then be able to end its £2 million-a-day support.

He said that in future the Government would make no contribution to British Coal's operating costs, although it would still provide aid for any large reconstruction necessary.

The energy secretary added

that the Government's privatization of electricity was proceeding on schedule and the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales should be coming to the market early next year. Two generating companies will be floated off in the autumn.

However, he said the Government had yet to decide whether it would be necessary for the two generating companies to come to the market together or whether they should be sold off at separate times as originally planned.

Mr Wakeham announced that the Government had a shortlist of prominent industrial leaders who it will approach to offer the job of chairman of National Power.

'Trading losses' notice at optician

By Gillian Bowditch

Special eyes, the optical chain which had the backing of Mr Jim Raper, the financier, when it floated on the over-the-counter market five years ago, has given warning of "trading losses" at the interim stage.

The group is due to announce its figures later this month.

Special eyes says the losses have been caused by the severe downturn in the optical market since the withdrawal of the Government eye test subsidy on April 1 last year.

The problem has been exacerbated by the general downturn in the retail sector. Special eyes has outlets in some of the British Home Stores shops.

The shares, which have been listed on the USM, for over a year fell 7p to 22p. At the time of their listing, they were about 65p.

A spokesman for Special eyes said the group had experienced a drop in sales of about 25 per cent compared with 33 per cent for the industry as a whole.

He said the industry had suffered from a bulge in the pipeline as business which would have come on stream this year came in a rush before the subsidy deadline of April 1, 1989.

The group doubled its pre-tax profits for the year to May 1989 to £1.1 million. These figures were boosted by the business done in the run-up to April 1. For the six months to November 1988, the group made £538,000.

Little extras that make Dixons so appealing

COMMENT David Brewerton

Achie Norman, Kingfisher's lively finance director, might be reeling with shock after seeing Dixons Group's profits forecast. On the other hand, he may not.

Dixons, it turns out, is a store of assets, not the run-down retailer fit for the knacker's yard which Mr Norman sought to expose in Kingfisher's analysis of the "real value" last week. Primed by Mr Norman, Kingfisher chairman Geoffrey Mulcahy told Dixons shareholders that their company had only £42 million of fixed property assets, but Conrad Riblat, the surveyor, has managed to turn up £175 million of property. Not all of it is categorized as "fixed property assets", which probably accounts for Mr Norman's confusion. But the surplus over valuation amounts to £43.9 million and there is an additional £23.8 million to come from completing and letting properties in the course of development.

In fact, Mr Norman must now be licking his lips at the prospect of getting his calculator around Dixons' numbers. For not only is the property portfolio worth substantially more than expected, but Dixons has also managed to find a £49 million pension fund surplus, which is enough to relieve the company of pension fund obligations for years. Dixons could take a £7 million pension fund credit to profits this year, but is simply reducing the contribution to zero.

If Kingfisher does complete the Dixons takeover, there are yet more treats in store for the lucky buyer. Kingfisher was worried that Dixons might be running out of little extras to pump into the profit and loss account, but an over provision of £30 million has been discovered in the extended warranty reinsurance book operated

through the Isle of Man. This will be slipped into profits: £10 million this year and more in the next two years. Finally, Mr Norman might be able to make something of the £47 million brand valuation by Interbrand: perhaps he could offer the brand rights back to the Dixons directors who would be deposited after the takeover, but they probably wouldn't buy.

Mr Mulcahy called the brand valuation "Noddyland", but even leaving that aside Dixons has produced the best part of £150 millions of near cash surplus.

Dixons has produced enough "capital extras" to justify a higher offer than 120p a share, especially since trading, although bad, is not so bad that shareholders need a rescue. Even after Kingfisher has filleted the profits forecast back to basics, the numbers still emerge at the higher end of analysts' ranges, although the composition of the profits does show an alarming trend in its retailing returns.

This will have to be reversed if Dixons is to retain the support of its shareholders, and Stanley Kalms, the chairman, needs to demonstrate that the management has been strengthened so that the core business can be teased back to health. Dixons is, after all, a retailing company rather than a property company, an insurance underwriter or a middle-man for hire purchase companies. If Dixons continues to attribute the decline in profits in the retailing operations entirely to market conditions, presenting the company as a victim of circumstance, a bid not far north of 120p could begin to look attractive.

Something needs to change at Dixons. Either Mr Kalms can do it. Or he can leave it to Kingfisher.

Carclo to sell car spring maker

By Jeremy Andrews

Shares in Carclo Engineering rose by 4p to 125p yesterday after it announced it is to sell its Woodhead automotive spring business. Profits at Woodhead fell in the first half of the current year after problems with new machinery.

Having had offers from Japanese, West German and US car spring makers, Mr John Ewart, Carclo's chairman, has asked Robert Fleming, its merchant bank, to find a buyer.

Mr Ewart would not say what price he expects, but noted that Armstrong Equipment's vehicle shock absorber side was sold to Tenneco of the US for a high price in May. However, he expects the proceeds to put Carclo in a net cash position, compared with gearing of 39 per cent at end-September.

Tenneco paid £58 million

for a business with annual sales of £50 million and net assets of £17 million. However, Armstrong's shock absorber division was slightly larger than Woodhead's manufacturing side, which has sales of £30 million and assets of £10 million. Woodhead was bought three years ago for £16 million in cash and shares.

The business to be sold made operating profits of only £700,000 in the six months to September, a fall of 22 per cent on the first half of 1988-89. This setback in the spring division accounted for all of the 9 per cent fall in group pre-tax profits to £3.96 million in the first half, on sales which were 5 per cent ahead at £55.4 million.

Earnings per share fell by 8 per cent to 6.6p, though the interim dividend is to increase by 15 per cent to 1.55p.



Sorting through the offers: John Ewart, chairman of Carclo.

Revision by Lovell

YI Lovell has revised its Higgs & Hill accounts to 13.3 per cent from 13.4 per cent after a share block withdrawal. Higgs shares sold another 14p to 434p, compared to the equivalent of almost 479p on offer from Lovell.

Flextech gain

Flextech more than doubled pre-tax profits to £2.21 million in the six months to end-September, on turnover up from £13 million to £14.8 million. Earnings per share jumped from 2.2p to 5p. There is a combined interim and final of not less than 0.75p against nil.

Neepsend up

Neepsend raised pre-tax profits to £116,000 to £436,000 in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 0.68p to 2.12p. The interim is 0.5p, against 0.4p.

Jersey higher

Jersey Electricity has lifted pre-tax profits from £5.03 million to £7.2 million in the year to end-September. The final on the ordinary and 'A' shares is 18p for the year to October 1, 1989, making 27p for the period, against 25p.

Profits warning at Bemrose

By Our City Staff

A setback in its calendar and giftware business on both sides of the Atlantic has led Bemrose, the cheque and ticket printer, to forecast a fall in profits for 1989. The shares shed 10p to 172p on the news and analysts suggested a more severe reaction was only avoided by the company's promise to maintain its final dividend at 7p, bringing the total for the year to 11.3p.

Bemrose made profits of £5.48 million before tax in 1988 and despite a downturn

into losses in the first half at Bemrose Yattendon Inc, its US associate, Mr Tim Rothwell, an analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, expected the full year total to rise to £5.8 million. He has now cut this forecast to £4.6 million and his forecast of earnings per share has been reduced from 22.5p to 17.6p.

In the belief that 1990 will not be an easy year, Mr David Wigglesworth, Bemrose's chief executive, plans to cut \$1 million of annual overheads

by closing the head office of Bemrose Yattendon in St Charles, near Chicago. Its two smallest subsidiaries will be sold and the remaining businesses will report directly to him. Mr Robert Evans, the executive brought in from US industry to run Bemrose Yattendon, has resigned and has also left Bemrose's board.

The decision marks the reversal of the ambitious plan to build up a major supplier in the US of giftware and promotional items.

Rejigged ML advances 35%

By Angela Mackay

ML Holdings, the aerospace, defence and component distribution company, yesterday reported a 35 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits from £2.7 million to £3.6 million after a rejigging of its business to reduce exposure to defence contract income.

Earnings per share grew from 3.6p to 4.74p, and dividend payments rose from 72p to 85p. ML shares ended 12p stronger at 123p.

Group sales rose from £49 million to £58 million. Sales

derived from ML's biggest — and now completed — defence contract, JP233, have dropped from 50 per cent of group turnover a couple of years ago, to between 10 and 15 per cent for the full year, and in 1990-91 should be about 1 per cent.

Analysts said that this should not set earnings back particularly because ML had been bolstered by the purchase of aircraft and cargo handling assets and an underwater vehicle specialist.

Smith New Court, the bro-

ker, forecasts an annual pre-tax profit of £10.6 million, compared with £8.63 million previously.

About £1 million of the £5.8 million that ML received from selling its engineering arm will emerge as an extraordinary item at the end of the year. Funds from the sale of a seven-acre site near Maidenhead will probably be used to reduce borrowings, now £8 million. Analysts suggest that the site is worth between £5 million and £7 million.

High flier Hazel

Hoping to take off shortly in a new career is Hazel Willis, aged 30, a fund manager at Throgmorton Investment Trust both before and after a two-year stint with City public relations firm Bins Cornwall. For she is now leaving the Square Mile altogether to become a commercial airline pilot, having won a sponsored place on a two-year training course with Air UK and Cabair, based in Epsom, Hertfordshire. She will learn to fly Fokker 27s, with twin prop engines, and will also qualify as an instructor. In accordance with the best of City traditions, her colleagues at Throgmorton Trust helped underwrite the guarantee, amounting to about £10,000, necessary to ensure a place on the course because of its high cost. "I'm selling my flat, the car goes back — it's back to poverty for me," says Willis, who worked her last day yesterday. "But I just love flying, it's something you have to have done to appreciate the buzz of it. On a day like today there's nothing I would rather do than be up in the skies." She is clearly one for risky sports — she counts diving as another of her interests.

Last out

Paul Jarvis, a blue button-turned-market maker at Schroder Securities, was made redundant yesterday when the firm announced that its was withdrawing from UK market-making. But since Schroders only made markets in

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Long Stay Park Part II

With Daniel Jeffreys, former head of the BBC's financial unit and one-time economist at Cazenove, beginning his new job as a UK equity strategist at Citicorp Securities yesterday, talk of the £5,000 car park bill he is notched up at Heathrow Airport — and revealed in this column — has once again been circulating south of the river, in CS's ritz Cotton's Centre headquarters. And it seems that he may have set something of a precedent. Financial public relations man Paul Vase,

described by his former colleagues as a "mergers and acquisitions whiz kid", has just left Bins Cornwall for a more lucrative job offer — and £20,000 car allowance — from Love Bell Financial. On his last day, at the end of December, the office manager took back his car keys and revealed the whereabouts of the car — an Audi Quattro. The car, he was informed, was in a local multi-storey car park and had been there since the end of October. The bill? A cool £1,015.

10 stocks — all smaller companies and 95 per cent of them clients — he is the only market-maker the firm employed. "We decided 18 months ago that we wanted to be an agency broker and this was a left over from the

previous regime," says director Alasdair Menzies. "We have expanded our UK equity division from 17 to 33 people in the past 18 months. Of the 280 people we employ, 75 per cent are employed in the Far Eastern markets, which are highly profitable."



Shining on
With talk of City job losses once again mounting, the soon-to-be-swelled ranks of the unemployed should perhaps bear in mind the findings of a national survey in the US. According to the 250 staff recruitment agencies questioned, the most common reason for turning down a male job seeker was the fact that he was wearing dirty or scuffed shoes. But who commissioned the report? None other than Kiwi, the shoe polish manufacturer.

Gilts lose their shine

Of the three women and four men laid off by Baring Brothers last week, at least one has resigned himself to the fact the gilt market is now so dull that there is little point trying to get another job in it. Sean Bellow, aged 29, a gilt-edged salesman and Cambridge graduate, now describes himself as "a statistic". "The gilt and bond markets are likely to remain boring for a number of years. I can't see the point of trying to get back into them," he says. Having regularly written a page on Reuters for Barings and edited its gilt-edged bulletin, Bellow now wants to begin a career in either financial journalism or PR. Clearly a multi-talented individual he once ran a pub and then worked for Greens, the City wine merchant. The others to lose their jobs were Corinne Birch, a fixed-interest saleswoman, Phil Heywood, head of European bond trading, Giles Scott, Mandy Archer, Mark Britten and Rosemary Maltus Smith, known to her friends as "Buds".

Employees of US investment bank Salomon Brothers, will be delighted to learn that their chairman, John Gutfreund, has been accorded immortality. The bank put together a deal whereby the Swedish Government has written off a £16 million debt in return for Costa Rica establishing a 210,000-acre national park. As a thank-you, a species of wasp, discovered in the park, is to be named after Gutfreund and called the *Erga Gutfreundii*.

Carol Leonard

Thames Water Plc

Interim Results in line with Prospectus Forecasts

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
I am delighted that Thames Water has attracted such a large number of shareholders, over 650,000 at the start of dealing.
The results for the half year ended 30 September 1989 are shown below. They are as expected. They are consistent with the profit forecast for the full year contained in the Prospectus, namely a pre-tax profit on ordinary activities of at least £170M (£178M on a pro forma basis). We are confident of achieving this.

As Thames Water was transferred to the private sector part way through the current financial year, the directors expect to recommend a single dividend at the year end of 9.72p per ordinary share, as per the Prospectus.

We have an experienced, competent and progressive Board and management with high professional standards throughout the company. We all look forward to serving our shareholders for many years to come.

On 15 December 1989 we completed the acquisition of PWT from Portals Holdings PLC. Results from PWT will not significantly impact on our figures until next year.

A further measure the Board took in December was the signing of a substitute funding facility for the Utility business through a

£75 million loan agreement with the European Investment Bank.

In addition, on 19 December we signed an innovative "extended arm" contract with Taylor Woodrow Management Contracting Ltd, setting out terms and conditions under which they will carry out the design, management and construction of a number of major improvement works at sewage and water treatment plants.

ROY WATTS Chairman

GROUP RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989	
	£M (unaudited)
TURNOVER	297.2
OPERATING PROFIT	72.7
Other income	5.2
Net interest receivable	3.5
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES PRE AND POST TAX	81.4
Extraordinary items	(16.3)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	65.1

For answers to any shareholder enquiries ring 0345 414140 (charged at local rate).

NOTES
1. BASIS OF PREPARATION
The interim accounts, which are unaudited, for the six months ended 30 September 1989 for the Group have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the prospectus dated 22 November 1989 containing Listing Particulars of Thames Water Plc and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted for the year ended 31 March 1989.
Results for the six months ended 30 September 1988 have not been presented. The directors believe that comparison with this prior period would not be meaningful in view of changes during the current year in capital structure and regulation and in the level of infrastructure renewals expenditure and other costs associated with the Company's new status as a plc.
The financial information contained in this interim statement does not amount to full accounts within the meaning of Section 254 of the Companies Act 1985.
2. PRO FORMA EARNINGS
Pro forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation £78.4M.
Pro forma earnings per Ordinary Share 20.41p.
Pro forma earnings per ordinary share have been calculated by dividing pro forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation by the 384,208,000 Ordinary Shares in issue since 20 November 1989. Pro forma profit attributable to shareholders has been calculated by making an adjustment to interest of £6.2M as if the new capital structure had been in place since 1 April 1989 and by including the pro forma taxation charge of £9.2M (note 4).
Actual earnings per Ordinary Share have not been presented. The number of shares in issue during the six months ended 30 September 1989 and the actual profits for that period are not considered to be

representative of the Group's position following implementation of the new capital structure.

Pro forma information in respect of the six months ended 30 September 1988 has not been presented. The directors believe that the application of pro forma adjustments to periods prior to the current year would be subjective and inappropriate.

3. EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS
Extraordinary items comprise privatisation and restructuring costs and certain one-off pension costs.

4. TAXATION
Prior to vesting in September 1989, Thames Water Authority was exempt from UK income, corporation and capital gains tax on all income and chargeable gains. Until such time as a liability to mainstream corporation tax or deferred tax arises, it is expected that the only tax charge to the profit and loss account will be the write off of irrecoverable advance corporation tax.
In computing pro forma earnings, the pro forma taxation charge has been derived by applying the estimated effective rate of tax as a proportion of profits for the year ending 31 March 1990 (based on the pro forma forecast contained in the prospectus) to the interim results.



Thames Water Plc, 14 Cavendish Place, London W1M 9DJ.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	McAlpine (Africa)	Building/Roads	
2	PI Carroll	Tobacco	
3	Raines Group	Drapery Stores	
4	Clifford Foods 'A'	Food	
5	Nobo Gp	Industrials L-R	
6	Evered	Building/Roads	
7	Brumby	Paper/Print/Adv	
8	Hall Eng	Industrials E-K	
9	Guinness (sa)	Breweries	
10	East	Drapery Stores	
11	Ward Mids	Building/Roads	
12	RSS Group	Industrials A-D	
13	AS Elst	Electricals	
14	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
15	BET Ord (sa)	Industrials A-D	
16	Provident	Bank/Discount	
17	ASDA Group (sa)	Food	
18	Gleeson (M)	Building/Roads	
19	Moran	Leisure	
20	Charles Eng	Industrials A-D	
21	Chico Cos	Industrials A-D	
22	Kell-Fr	Electricals S-Z	
23	Sainsbury	Food	
24	Seaton	Electricals	
25	Dixons Gp (sa)	Drapery Stores	
26	Eng China Clay (sa)	Industrials E-K	
27	Burroughs	Electricals	
28	Stonchill	Industrials S-Z	
29	Fish-ES	Paper/Print/Adv	
30	Gerrard Nat	Bank/Discount	
31	Estates Gen	Property	
32	Boddington	Breweries	
33	Neopend	Industrials L-R	
34	Br Mohair	Textiles	
35	Applied	Motors/Aircraft	
36	STC (sa)	Electricals	
37	Compu	Leisure	
38	Corbin Comm	Leisure	
39	Gen	Industrials S-Z	
40	KLP	Paper/Print/Adv	
41	Yale & Vake	Industrials S-Z	
42	Warrington	Property	
43	Prop Security	Property	
44	Jordan (Thomson)	Industrials E-K	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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UNDATED

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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INDEX-LINKED

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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ELECTRICALS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Further losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27, Dealings end January 12, Settlement day January 15, Settlement day January 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

BREWERIES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FINANCE, LAND

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FOODS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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DRAPEY, STORES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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HOTELS, CATERERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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S-Z

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHIPPING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TOBACCOS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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INSURANCE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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LEISURE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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MINDING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OILS, GAS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHIPPING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TOBACCOS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +33 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TOBACCOS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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UNLISTED SECURITIES

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01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

SHIPPING
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Our Client is a leading City firm whose enviable client list includes a host of internationally renowned shipping, commercial, financial and industrial names.

The firm's Shipping Department, with its strong Club base and prominent reputation for marine, international commodities, insurance and related work, is continuing to enjoy dramatic growth.

The ever increasing volume of instructions has created a number of further exceptional opportunities for young, ambitious lawyers with, ideally, 1-4 years' experience. The successful applicants will be encouraged to play a significant role in the firm's continued development and will enjoy a highly competitive salary and excellent prospects.

For further information, please contact Alistair Dougall on 01-405 6062 (01-773 3702 evenings/weekends), or write to Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

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The Bureau is financed by the Law Society with a brief to act as the legal profession's self-regulatory body. This means an 'arms length' relationship and methods of working that involve lay people as well as solicitors at crucial points in the complaints handling process. The work of the Bureau as a whole is subject to systematic scrutiny by an Investigation Committee whose members include a majority of lay people and, in addition, new legislation will provide a Legal Service Ombudsman to whom dissatisfied complainants can turn.

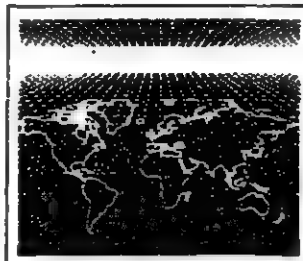
Success will depend upon credibility with both complainants and with the profession. A reputation for fairness is but one aspect, speed and efficiency in the handling of complaints being a second major factor. Seventeen thousand complaints were received last year; while eighty five per cent were handled without recourse to formal adjudication, new approaches to cutting down the delays involved are being investigated as are new forms of redress.

Currently the organisation has 130 staff and a £5million annual budget.

While it is not essential to be a solicitor, the successful candidate will understand the work of solicitors as well as the problems of complainants. Considerable management abilities are required together with an independence of mind and the ability to maintain the Bureau's reputation and credibility in all quarters. Media and communications skills are also crucial; the Bureau's existence and work must be widely known and understood, with a headquarters in London and a growing regional presence.

Completed applications should be received by 31st January 1990. The Solicitors' Complaints Bureau is an equal opportunity employer.

Interested candidates should apply for application forms by phone or in writing to Michael Brandon, Korn/Ferry International, Pepps House, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DF. Telephone 01-930 4334 Ext 252

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OUR CLIENT, A MAJOR UK MERCHANT BANK, SEEKS TO RECRUIT A NEWLY/RECENTLY ADMITTED SOLICITOR FOR ITS HIGHLY RESPECTED CORPORATE FINANCE DEPARTMENT. CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE STRONG ACADEMIC BACKGROUNDS AND THE FLAIR AND ENERGY REQUIRED FOR THIS EXCITING, ALTHOUGH DEMANDING AREA. PACKAGE WILL INCLUDE A MORTGAGE SUBSIDY, BONUS AND A CAR. PLEASE CONTACT PAUL MEWIS.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

THERE IS TREMENDOUS DEMAND FROM THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES, QUALITY MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS AND THE SMALLER 'NICHE' PLAYERS FOR SOLICITORS WITH EXPERIENCE IN MAINSTREAM CORPORATE FINANCE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING YOUR OPTIONS AND WISH TO MAXIMISE YOUR EARNINGS POTENTIAL AND FUTURE PROSPECTS WHY NOT CONTACT ONE OF OUR SPECIALISTS, NICK ROOT OR PETER MORRIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-936 2565 (EVENINGS/WEKENDS 01-675 6384 OR 01-747 1808) OR WRITE TO TAYLOR ROOT AT LUDGATE HOUSE, 107 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4A 2AB. CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.

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Slough To £45,000 Package

Our client, Parc Limited, a subsidiary of Kleinwort Benson, is predominantly involved in the rental of computer systems and other high technology equipment.

Due to rapid expansion, a new position has been generated for a lawyer with a minimum of 4 years' commercial experience, preferably including contract work in the high technology and/or finance industry.

The successful applicant will join a small front line team involved in negotiating and drafting a variety of contracts and advising generally on the legal aspects of the company's activities. Candidates should be seeking a high level of responsibility in a commercial environment.

The importance of this position is reflected by the first class salary and benefits package on offer. For further details, please telephone Shona McDougall on 01-831 3270 (01 - 482 0349 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. All approaches will be treated in strict confidence.

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LAWYER

Our client is one of the largest firms of solicitors in the City; within the practice its pensions team is relatively small, but extremely busy and earmarked for accelerated growth. This combination of circumstances now produces a rare opportunity: for a solicitor or barrister with at least three years' post-qualified experience to move rapidly to partnership (or equivalent) at a "top ten" firm.

Such realistic prospects may even appeal to a partner, in a smaller firm, who wants access to the full range of the very best work in pensions law. They will certainly be of interest to ambitious "assistants", and perhaps also to solicitors or barristers employed in major consultancies. Whoever is appointed, the intellectual and financial rewards are unlikely to be bettered elsewhere.

For further information about this exceptional opportunity please contact Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 01-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Limited, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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CITY

Our client is a progressive partnership which has advanced steadily through the ranks of City firms in recent years. Their corporate tax practice is currently enjoying rapid growth and they are, therefore, seeking a lawyer with up to 3 yrs' PQE to join the team. Contact Bob O'Dwyer: Ref: 233

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THE LAW



In a corner: Hubert Williams's wife is unable to sue over tranquilizers

Too high a price for justice

The income trap bars many from court action, Carolyn Brock writes

Hubert Williams is one of those people whose personal savings bar them from getting legal aid. His wife has a claim against a drug company, whose tranquilizers, he says, have made her life a misery, but the claim can be pursued only at the risk of financial ruin for the couple.

The Lord Chancellor recently announced an infusion of £5 million for legal aid. Even so, there will still be many people caught in the middle-income trap, too well off for legal aid but not wealthy enough to risk litigation at their own expense.

It would be naive to think that any amount of campaigning will ever secure legal aid for people in their position. So we have to look for realistic alternatives.

Allianz, the legal protection insurers, published a Gallup survey on legal costs showing that solicitors' charges could be between £60 and £200 an hour. The effect of its advertising campaign is worrying for would-be litigants — and it could be big business for insurance companies.

Legal expenses insurance may solve some of the problems of legal costs but, as with all insurance, it will not cover problems existing when the policy starts. There will also be exclusions. For instance, policies do not generally cover divorce, criminal crimes, rent, rates and land tribunals, and defamation actions.

Experience of insurance claims



shows that disputes often arise over the wording of policies. In legal expenses insurance there could also be a conflict of interest where the insurance company turns out to be the defendant-insurer in the action it is funding.

The insurance company often restricts the choice of lawyer involved, so little freedom is given to the consumer.

The Courts and Legal Services Bill will go some way towards bridging the legal aid gap by permitting conditional fee arrangements. This will be akin to the Scottish system of speculative actions, under which a lawyer takes a case on the basis that if it is lost he will not be paid.

There is, however, one important difference: there will be an incentive for lawyers. As a quid pro quo for getting nothing if he loses, the lawyer can charge a percentage uplift to the usual fee if he wins.

It is only fair that lawyers who

take on the risk of not being paid, and even carry the cost of disbursements, should be rewarded by higher fees. From the client's point of view, if the loss he will still be liable for the other side's costs under normal rules, and if he wins he will have to pay the conditional fee uplift.

The Government has rejected American-style contingency fees, where lawyers speculate their fees on a share of the damages. Opponents argued that permitting lawyers to have a direct financial interest in the outcome of a case would open the door to abuse by the unscrupulous.

But contingency fees could be a positive advantage to the client, whose lawyer would at least have more than a passing interest in doing a good job.

Under conditional fees, lawyers will be able to follow their instincts about an action where

the client does not qualify for legal aid and cannot afford to take the risk himself. It should also encourage greater openness about the viability of a case.

In fact, some solicitors already operate on a speculative basis when a deserving client fails to get legal aid, and more cases are conducted on a speculative basis in Scotland than are revealed by the figures from the Faculty of Advocates, the governing body for the Scottish equivalent of barristers, as it is solicitors who conduct much of the litigation.

There is nothing to suggest that conditional fees would be exploited any more than the present charging system, under which solicitors are paid on an hourly basis. It should mean fewer delays and greater economy when the lawyer and client have the same goal. Of course, there will always be a few lawyers prepared to suborn witnesses and mislead courts, but they are already work-

ing the system; it is denigrating the profession to suggest that it will be further corrupted by the prospect of higher fees.

It is argued, by analogy with the American system, that letting lawyers share in their clients' successes will promote nuisance litigation and unjustified claims against parties who are likely to settle out of court. It is also feared that an increase in claims will lead to higher costs being passed on to the consumer.

But it is unrealistic to suggest that lawyers will encourage clients to create the maximum nuisance just to gain an unjustified settlement. Is it not more likely that the natural and just outcome will be pursuit of legitimate claims that at present do not materialize?

Conditional fees are not a panacea for justice and they will not be permitted in criminal, matrimonial or custody cases. Where damages are not an appropriate remedy, or where they are so small that the fees uplift would eat away at them, people will still be left without access to justice.

Recognizing that the ebbing tide of legal aid has left an increasing number of people stranded, the Government's proposals to legalize the practice of "no win no fee" will provide a viable option for quite a few who are now excluded through lack of means.

● The author is a barrister in the Consumers' Association.

'Even with extra legal aid money there will be people too well off to claim and not wealthy enough to risk litigation'

Law Report January 9 1990 Queen's Bench Division

Method of assessing damages payable in failure to fulfil tin contract

Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc and Another v MacLaine Watson & Co Ltd
Before Mr Justice Webster
[Judgment December 21]
The use of the phrase "prima facie" in section 50(3) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 entitled the court to depart from a literal construction of the subsequent language in order to determine what would, in all the circumstances, have been a fair price on the day in question.

Although the current practice of the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division, in awarding interest at 1 per cent above base rate, was only a presumption, it should only be departed from on relevant evidence to the contrary.

Mr Justice Webster so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division, in assessing the net damages payable by the defendants, MacLaine Watson & Co Ltd to

the plaintiffs, Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc, in respect of breaches by MacLaine of contracts to buy tin from Shearson, less similar damages payable by Shearson to buy tin from MacLaine, at £41,563,082.

Section 50 of the 1979 Act provides: "(3) Where there is an available market for the goods in question the measure of damages is *prima facie* to be ascertained by the difference between the contract price and the market or current price at the time or times when the goods ought to have been accepted or (if no time was fixed for acceptance) at the time of refusal to accept."

Mr Peter Scott, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Miss Mary Morgan for the plaintiffs; Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Mr Adrian Hughes for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE WEBSTER said it was common ground that

there was an available market for tin on March 12, 1986; and, once Shearson's alternative contention that section 50(2) applied was rejected, that the measure of damages was that prescribed by section 50(3).

The object of that subsection was to avoid uncertainty by arbitrarily presuming that the seller could obtain the market or current price of the goods on the date of the breach and fixing the damages by reference to that price.

The parties were also agreed that the test for ascertaining the market or current price was an objective one — and his Lordship held that the degree of skill in negotiation of the actual sale was irrelevant.

The evidence established that it would have been impossible to sell the greater part of the tin on March 12/13, 1986 to consumers of tin (as distinct from merchants), so a better price

would have been obtained if the tin were to be negotiated over a few days.

The two central issues, therefore, were:
1 Could it be said that there was an "available market" on March 12/13 — on which dates most consumers would not have been accessible to a seller of 7,755 tonnes of tin?
2 Whether it was necessary, in determining the market or current price on March 12/13, to consider only prices at which tin could then have been negotiated and sold; or was it permissible to consider the price which could have been negotiated over a slightly longer period?

His Lordship considered the authorities and comments in paragraph 1294 of *Benjamin's Sale of Goods* (3rd edition, 1987) and said that the answers seemed to be:
1 The available market issue
(a) If the seller actually offered

the goods for sale, there was no available market unless there was one actual buyer, on that day, at a fair price; but (b) if there was only a hypothetical sale for the purposes of section 50(3), there was no available market unless, on that day, there were sufficient traders in touch with each other to evidence a market in which the seller could, if he wished, sell the goods.
2 The appropriate price issue

Where there was no actual sale, the market price must be "a fair market price for the total quantity of goods, assuming them to have been sold on the relevant date".

But since it might be unfair to the defendant purchaser to confine the price so established to what was obtainable if an actual sale had to be concluded on that day, it was permissible to take into account the price, negotiable within a few days with members of the market on that

day who were only precluded from bidding on that day by difficulties of communication — no account being taken of any price fluctuations after the day in question.

The same result could be achieved by assuming that all members of the market on that day were also then in account with the expert, sales or broker, knowing he would have to make his sale on that day, had begun to negotiate it sufficiently far ahead to contact all his potential buyers so as to achieve a sale on that day.

Neither assumption appeared to be inconsistent with the objects of section 50(3) or with the application to the facts of the general measure of damages under subsection (2), or with the authorities cited.

His Lordship would, if necessary, justify them by resorting to the expression "*prima facie*" in subsection (3) as giving

license to depart from a literal application of its language, in order to arrive at what would in substance be a fair price on that day in all the circumstances.

But his Lordship also concluded that the price that would have been obtained had it been necessary to conclude the sale on that day should also be taken into account by the expert, sales or broker, knowing he would have to make his sale on that day, had begun to negotiate it sufficiently far ahead to contact all his potential buyers so as to achieve a sale on that day.

His Lordship, having analysed the expert evidence, concluded that the fair market or current price of 7,755 tonnes of standard tin on March 12/13, 1986 was £3,400 per tonne.

The plaintiffs had contended for London and Scottish Clearing Bank's Lending Rate (commonly referred to as the UK Clearing Bank's Base Lending Rate) plus 1 per cent; the

defendants, for London Inter-Bank Offer Rate (LIBOR) plus 1/4%. The practice in the Commercial Court and the Admiralty Court was to award interest at base rate plus 1 per cent.

His Lordship concluded that while the practice of the Commercial Court amounted to no more than a presumption, which could be displaced on evidence that to apply it would be unfair to one side or another, it should not — in the absence of evidence or of judicial knowledge (which his Lordship disclaimed) — be departed from.

The award of damages would therefore carry interest from March 13 at base rate plus 1 per cent, and judgment would be entered for the plaintiffs (after taking into account the counterclaim and an interim payment already made) in the sum of £41,563,082, with costs.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Allen & Overy.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued From Previous Page

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Passport endorsement gives freedom to re-enter

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Mowla

Before Mr Justice Roch
[Judgment December 13]

Endorsements made on the passport of a citizen of a Commonwealth country whose nationals required an entry visa amounted to a representation by the immigration authority that he would have no trouble in returning to the United Kingdom after a short overseas visit as long as he returned within his current period of leave to remain, providing he was returning in the same capacity as he had leave to remain and there was no information to justify revoking the original leave.

Mr Justice Roch so held in the Queen's Bench Division in ordering, on an application by Abu Naim Gholam Mowla for judicial review, that an immigration officer's decision on September 7, 1989 refusing him leave to enter the United Kingdom be quashed.

Mr Alper Riza for the applicant; Mr Justin Fenwick for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said Mr Mowla had first come to the United Kingdom in February 1987, as a visitor on a six-month visa. He had enrolled as a student of English and on November 16, 1987 he had been granted leave to remain as a student until September 1988. That was later extended to November 30, 1989.

On the grant of the extension his passport was endorsed with three stamps.

The first gave leave to remain until November 30, 1989 on condition that the holder did not engage in employment without the consent of the Secretary of State for Employment and did not engage in any business or profession without the consent of the Home Secretary.

The second stamp, in accordance with section 3(3)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971, said: "This will apply unless superseded to any subsequent leave the holder may obtain after as

absence from the United Kingdom within the period limited above."

A further endorsement said: "The holder is exempt from requiring a visa if returning to the United Kingdom to resume earlier leave before November 30, 1989."

In December 1988 Mr Mowla had returned to Bangladesh to get married. His wife was refused entry clearance to the UK as a visitor and he returned alone on March 21, 1989.

The Home Office had said that in connection with his wife's application Mr Mowla had told the entry clearance officer in Dacca that he had bought a house and had part-time employment with his cousin's husband in the UK.

On July 25, 1989 he went to Bangladesh for a further visit, returning on September 7. He was refused leave to enter because the immigration officer was not satisfied he was a genuine student who would leave the United Kingdom at the end of his studies.

The immigration officer who interviewed him also established that he had been working for five days a week on most weeks up to May or June 1989 and concluded that he had reason to believe Mr Mowla had been working in breach of the conditions attached to his leave to remain.

Under section 13(3) of the 1971 Act Mr Mowla could exercise his right to appeal against the refusal of leave to enter only if and when he left the country.

Had he not gone to Bangladesh in July or had he been permitted to re-enter on September 7 he would have been entitled under section 14(1) to apply for an extension of his leave to remain and, if that were refused, to remain in the UK pending hearing of an appeal to an adjudicator.

The same right would have arisen had the secretary of state sought to curtail his right to remain because he was working without the Department of Employment's consent.

Informations were duplicitous

Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food v Nunn Corn & Coal Ltd

Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Rose
[Judgment November 24]

Where several informations had been preferred against a defendant alleging that he had failed to provide purchasers of seeds with the result of a completed official germination test, as required by regulation 5(6) of the Fodder Plant Seed Regulations (SI 1985 No 973), and each information listed more than one purchaser, then those informations were duplicitous and bad in law.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing a prosecutor's appeal

by way of case stated against the dismissal by Woodbridge Justices on February 10, 1989, of three informations against the defendants, Nunn Corn & Coal Ltd, of failing to provide purchasers of seeds from them with germination test results as required by regulation 5(6) of the 1985 Regulations, made under the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964.

Mr Andrew Popplewell for the prosecutor; the defendants did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE ROSE said that he regarded the decision in *Cullen v Jardine* ([1985] Crim LR 668) as the high water mark of what did not amount to duplicity.

The purpose of the regulations was to afford protection to those who had purchased seeds before the final testing had taken place. The obligation imposed on the seller was to notify each of the purchasers to whom the seed had been marketed and sold.

A defendant was entitled to have identified in an information laid against him the particular purchaser whom it was alleged he had failed to identify. Consequently, to identify several purchasers in the same information rendered those informations duplicitous and bad in law.

The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Mann agreed. Solicitors: Solicitor, MAFF.

THE LAW

Moscow's quiet revolution

A British firm of solicitors is helping to widen perestroika, says Edward Fennell

International lawyers Baker & McKenzie will open for business in Moscow next Monday. With just one partner and two associates it is not a big operation, but as only the second Western law firm to operate within the Soviet Union — Coudert Brothers was the first — Baker & McKenzie can claim to be a pioneer of perestroika.

Of course, to say that Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet economy depends on the lawyers would be an exaggeration. But the availability of local legal expertise to guide investors through the Moscow bureaucracy would certainly be a significant advance in encouraging Western involvement in the Soviet economy.

Paul Melling, the Russian-speaking British lawyer who will head the Moscow office, says 70 per cent of his work in the early days is likely to be for existing clients of the firm. But as more Western companies become interested in prospects within the Soviet Union, the Moscow office could act as a magnet for new work.

Melling himself has been in Moscow for 12 months preparing



Pioneer lawyer: Paul Melling (inset) will head the office that will bring a British flavour to the Soviet capital

for the opening. He has developed good links with the vital Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, which, as a sign of its support for the venture, has agreed to be Baker & McKenzie's sponsor for "accreditation" as an officially recognized foreign commercial operation. This shows commitment to a long-term presence in Moscow as well as giving the firm improved access to local services and facilities.

"The work that we have been doing in the run-up to the opening suggests that we are going to be extremely busy," Melling says. "We are currently working seven days a

week and that is likely to continue. Clients arrive in Moscow on Monday, get into negotiations and want to leave with a contract by Friday. And that only leaves us the weekend to get on with other work."

Most transactions are concerned with setting up joint ventures. This is the way the Russians particularly like to operate because it means they provide plant, people and raw material, while the foreign investor provides the all-important hard currency. But although there is no doubting Moscow's enthusiasm for such developments and real commitment to change, huge obstacles still stand in the way of creating an

environment in which Western businesses would feel completely comfortable.

Moscow lawyers themselves are also having to work hard to adapt to the new regime. There is a serious shortage of Russians with any commercial legal experience, although, as part of the economic reforms, former civil servants and academics are now in the process of setting up lawyers' co-ops offering legal services to local businesses — "pretty much along the same lines, in fact, as British partnerships", Melling says.

Melling expects to see steady but not spectacular growth in Moscow.

Although he does not expect his office to go beyond three lawyers he does envisage that the firm may open other offices in cities such as Kiev and Leningrad.

Melling is keen to emphasize, however, that the Baker & McKenzie office within the Soviet Union is simply the sharp end of a world-wide Soviet practice. "We are permanently looking for suitable lawyers for our Soviet Union work, which is conducted from Washington, Chicago and Frankfurt as well as from London," he says. "Having said that, however, permanent presence within the Soviet Union is highly important as part of our service to our clients."

Meanwhile, Melling is grappling with the practical problems of Moscow life. Basic equipment such as fax paper is not available and has to be imported, and making a long business telephone call out of Moscow back to London is still notoriously difficult, even once you have access to a telephone — during the past few months Melling has shared a telephone with two colleagues.

Fortunately, his locally recruited secretarial staff are willing and enthusiastic and the aim is that they should be able to provide the same level and style of service as in London or American offices.

"We'll be sending them over to London in the spring for training," Melling says. Corporate culture, it seems, will be one of our first exports to the Moscow legal scene.

INNS AND OUTS

Is anything to be read into the collaboration of Goudens with the Brussels office of the American firm Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly in a seminar on cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A) to be held in London on January 17? According to Howard Leibman, a partner in the Brussels office of the Minneapolis-based firm, five or six firms, including Goudens, have made approaches to Oppenheimer, attracted, it seems, by the existence of a long-established Brussels office as well as the American connection.

It seems that the firm has narrowed the choice down to two. Although Oppenheimer has confirmed that Goudens is still in the running, its rival is a mystery. Oppenheimer is adamant that the two firms are not in a contest race.

If Goudens turns out to be the chosen one, it stands to gain not only an entrée to Brussels, but access to a network of offices in New York, Washington, Chicago and Minneapolis. For a firm whose overseas network encompasses Jersey, Paris and Kuwait, but not the United States, this is a contest worth winning.

This week will see the resumption in Lagos, Nigeria, of the trial by a military "transition to civil rule" tribunal of the country's leading civil rights lawyer, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, who was charged with subversion last September after being detained without charge for three months. The charges, which he denies, relate to a magazine article in which he was quoted as saying: "This government has Aids." The article has been deemed to be a violation of the government's decree on the transition to civil rule.

Although a High Court ruled last July that his arrest was unlawful and awarded him damages of 10,000 naira (\$1,400), it had no jurisdiction to release him and he was neither charged nor released until mid-September, when he was granted bail but immediately re-arrested. In October, the government bowed to public pressure and released him from detention. The beginning of 1989 also saw Fawehinmi in court, but not this time in the dock. He has used the courts to challenge the actions of the government on numerous occasions and last January was attempting to compel it to reveal the exact extent of Nigeria's external indebtedness. His trial will be resumed tomorrow.

Countries that seemed to have almost disappeared from the world map are being brought to the fore by perestroika. For example, the Mongolian People's Republic. But even there the winds of change are blowing. And Theodore Goddard is there at the start, retained by the Mongolian government to advise it on the drafting of its foreign investment and joint venture laws. It hopes that Theodore Goddard's John Murphy, who has practical experience of doing joint ventures in several Eastern bloc countries, can help it avoid mistakes made in other joint-venture laws. As a country, Mongolia drew the short straw in terms of geographical location — although nominally an independent state, it sits uncomfortably between China and the Soviet Union. Its two million people gained independence from China in 1911, though China never fully recognized the fact and Mongolia least towards the Soviet Union for protection.

Murphy may want to refer to *The Mongolian Legal System*, the text book on Mongolian law written by Professor William Butler, of University College London. Butler, who speaks Mongolian, has translated all the Mongolian laws, and has also published a Russian-English-Mongolian dictionary of 1,200 legal terms.

Among his hit Freshfields' move to Whitefriars. The firm's new home is equipped with an energy-saving device in the form of movement sensors that operate the lighting. Thus, whenever there is no movement in a room for more than 10 minutes the lights go off. Unfortunately, this has meant that lawyers who like an afternoon snooze over their documents are cast into sudden darkness. The good thing is that they have only to wave their arms to make the lights go on again.

Scrivenor

Protection or confusion?

Greater protection for investors is one of the most important aims of the latest proposals by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and *Martin Coleman writes*. The proposals come less than two years after the Financial Services Act 1986 (FSA) was brought into force and, together with amendments contained in the Companies Act 1989, will bring substantial changes if implemented.

But will they work better than the FSA? Those responsible for the original FSA wanted to avoid what was considered the highly centralized, lawyer-dominated, rule-based system of regulation that existed in the United States. The FSA was to provide for a decentralized, practitioner-led, non-legislative system.

Ironically, from the start, the system created by the FSA was criticized as over-detailed and confusing, and for driving out inde-

pendent sources of advice for investors. Critics have also said it fails to deal with malpractices in the financial markets.

Changes are therefore necessary, but the amendments under consideration are, in many ways, for the worse and question how far a self-regulation system still exists — except in name.

The new regime will give rise to four layers of regulation: first, a dozen principles; then, rules common to all self-regulating organizations (SROs) known as designated or core rules; then, rules made by every SRO for its own members; and, finally, codes of practice issued by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

An individual investor wanting to determine whether his investment adviser has observed the regulatory requirements may well be confounded when expected to plough through principles, rules

and several codes of practice. Compliance officers required to advise firms of their duties may be equally confused.

Most of this could have been avoided. After deciding to make changes, the Government and the SIB had two options. They could have recognized that the existing system was to build the framework for the future and that after a time it needed readjustment and nurturing, not wholesale change.

Rather than a coherent alternative, they gave us the worst of both worlds. Effective investor protection requires that firms and investors know what is permitted. Five SROs adding their own layers to an established set of principles and designated rules, and guided by codes of conduct, create undesirable complexity. The proposal may maintain little more than the appearance of self-regulation.

The Companies Act amend-



ments rule out the existing regime. The new system's unsatisfactory aspects could be significantly reduced by taking the small further step to a unified rule book with suitable modifications for particular types of firm and investor. If desired, self-regulation could still operate at the level of enforcement and monitoring.

© The authors are solicitors with Norton Rose.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' AWARD

Reminder for young lawyers and others interested in law, who were aged between 17 and 24 on November 7, 1989: the closing date for *The Times* second annual Young Professionals' Award competition, sponsored by Fishburn Boxer, the London firm of solicitors, is January 19, 1990.

To enter, write an article of no more than 700 words on the theme that: *The law is right to value reputation more than life or limb*. Winners will be announced at an awards lunch at The Savoy on February 23.

Prizes: The winner will receive £1,000 cash and a Pison MC600 mobile computer worth about £1,500. The two runners-up will each get £250 and a Pison Organiser II hand-held computer.

Judges: The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the editor of *The Times*, Charles Wilson, and Clive Boxer, senior partner at Fishburn Boxer.

Entries to: The Times/Fishburn Boxer "Young Professionals Award", FAO Kim Robinson, c/o Epigram, New Ruskin House, 28-30 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HN.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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The firm believes strongly in offering its staff competitive salaries and a structured career to partnership level. Training and advice are always available, while the partners offer early responsibility and rapid promotion in line with ability.

Legal Executive to £22,000

Commercial/Civil Litigation

This highly regarded 16 partner West End firm seeks a Legal Executive or Legal Advisor to take over and build up a varied caseload of quality commercial work, including personal injury, medical negligence, mortgage repossession and property litigation.

Educated to at least ILEX part 2, your previous experience should include work in one or more of the above fields, gained in either a City, West End or substantial provincial practice. The ability to use a computer would be an advantage but is by no means essential as a full training programme is offered.

The firm can offer work of sufficient quality and complexity, combined with outstanding prospects for salary and promotion.

For further information on either of the above positions, please call Simon Jenson or David Wrighton on 01-242-6321 or write to us at 75 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DD.

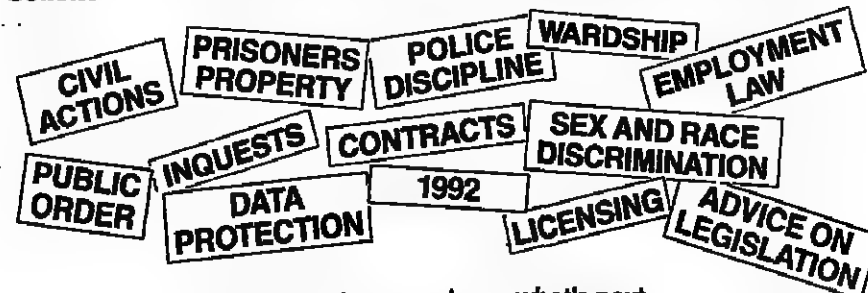
PERSONNEL + RESOURCES

LEGAL DIVISION

NEW SCOTLAND YARD says

The arm of the law needs a hand

You may have thought all legal work from the Police goes to the Crown Prosecution Service. It's not true. The Metropolitan Police have over 20 lawyers who handle a variety of other advice and casework. If you are a Solicitor or a Barrister, one of these posts could be for you. Find out more!



And that's just a sample. You never know what's next. You'd start as a Legal Officer or Principal Legal Officer in our modern offices near New Scotland Yard on a salary somewhere between £16,481 and £29,224 including Inner London Weighting. There's plenty to do, but evening and weekend working is rare.

So why not ring Michelle Baker on 01-230 2399 for an application form and further details? Interviews will be held in mid to late February 1990.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 2nd February, 1990.

The Metropolitan Police is an Equal Opportunities Employer.



METROPOLITAN POLICE

Commercial Lawyer

This fast expanding independent entertainment company distributes feature films to cinema and TV in both the UK and overseas; is becoming increasingly involved in production and is a significant player in the video market.

The pace of growth is such that the Chief Executive must now devote his energies to the creative aspects of the business while delegating all contractual and legal matters.

In this new appointment, you will be working very closely with the Chief Executive in a highly visible role involving a significant level of commercial decision making in the international arena. Additionally, you will be involved in the overall operation of the company as a member of the small executive team, which is both dynamic and flexible in its approach.

A qualified lawyer, with at least 4 years industry or practice experience related to film acquisition, you must offer exceptional commercial and negotiating skills — in fact you must relish the opportunity to negotiate and finalise the deal.

The importance of this appointment to the success of the company is reflected in the directorship prospects and a salary indicator which has flexibility for the right candidate.

Interested? Then please forward a comprehensive c.v. quoting Ref: MD2392 to Dennis Fielding at Macmillan Davies Consultants, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hertford, Herts. SG14 1PU. Telephone: (0992) 552552.

Entertainment Industry

Director prospects

c. £50,000 + bonus + car



Macmillan Davies

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE SOLICITOR

SALARY IN THE RANGE OF £22,000 — £30,000

The Law Society requires a Solicitor to be its principal adviser on professional indemnity matters. The duties will include advising on policy and rules, handling individual casework and acting as company secretary to the Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd.

The post will be based at the Law Society's modern offices in Redditch, North Worcestershire. We offer an excellent benefits package, including pension scheme, BUPA and 26 days holiday.

Please send a full cv and the names of two referees to the Director, Professional Standards and Development, The Law Society, Ipsley Court, Redditch, B98 0TD by 25th January, 1990.

The Law Society is an equal opportunities employer.



THE LAW SOCIETY

Not so much a merger more an exercise in logic

WOOLF INGRAM
SEDDON ANSELL
ROSCOE LEVY
PHILLIPS

It is rare to find two leading London solicitors so closely aligned in both expertise and approach. Woolf Seddon Roscoe Phillips and Ingram Ansell Levy are two such firms. Both seeking to expand. Hardly surprising, therefore, that we have taken the logical step — a merger, with effect from 1st January 1990. This will give us growth and our clients' added value across the legal spectrum. Woolf Seddon Roscoe Phillips. From strength to strength.



5 Portman Square, London W1M 0PS
Tel 01 486 9681, Fax 01 935 5049, Telex 298478, DX 9061 WOL ED

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

The Complete Service For The Complete Lawyer

There are so many different opportunities for the capable lawyer, that it may be difficult to identify the most sensible and rewarding route to career fulfillment. Our service to lawyers considering a change of direction is complete; all of our consultants are qualified lawyers, with practical experience in both private practice

and industry and therefore offer the unique combination of insight and overview essential to successful career progression. To discuss your future and the many exciting opportunities for 1990, contact Simon Lipson, Michael Silver or June Mesrié, all Solicitors, or Lucy Boyd, a Barrister.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY £27,000 - £70,000

► Planning, Development, Funding ► City, West End and Provinces
► NQ-6 years PQE

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY £24,000 - £40,000

► Major City practice ► Accountants, Solicitors, Surveyors negligence
► Excellent prospects ► NQ-4 years PQE

COMPANY COMMERCIAL ££Excellent

► Top ten practice ► Corporate Finance ► M&A ► MBOs/LBOs
► 1 year PQE+

INDUSTRY / COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL LAWYER c. £30,000+ Car

► Blue chip commercial concern ► Company/commercial with EEC/
international bias ► Solicitor/Barrister ► 2 years PQE+

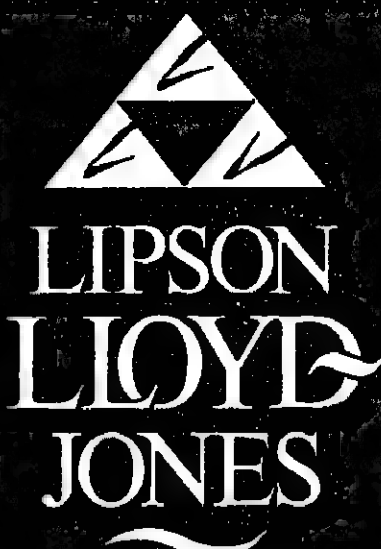
MAJOR OIL COMPANY TO £35,000

► Solicitor/Barrister ► Commercial experience ► Exceptional opportunity
and prospects for career development ► 1-3 years PQE

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK ££Outstanding

► Capital Markets/Corporate Finance/Banking ► City background
► 1-3 years PQE

THE LEGAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS



SUITE 331 - PREMIER HOUSE
10 GREYCOAT PLACE - LONDON
SW1P 1SB

01-222 4243
24 HOURS

Durnford Ford Solicitors

The Durnford Ford Organisation practising under the styles of Durnford Ford, John Lester & Co and Durnford Finlayson, is one of the largest providers of legal services in the South East. We require a number of skilled and experienced professionals (Solicitors, Barristers or Legal Executives or persons trained to similar standard) to play a vital role in the development of our organisation and to help meet the challenges of the 1990's.

Successful candidates will demonstrate excellent legal skills and enjoy working as part of a team to provide a top quality service.



An energetic solicitor is sought to undertake a general and comprehensive case load. The solicitor will supervise a small team as well as undertake cases personally.

The office has strong links with Spanish speaking clients and the ability to speak Spanish would be an advantage but not essential, as Spanish speaking professional and secretarial staff are already employed. For a Spanish speaking solicitor there is an opportunity to expand the firm's links with Spain.

The Contentious Costs Office

We require a number of trained and trainee costs draftspersons for appointment to this office.

Appointments include both supervisory and non-supervisory roles. The office provides costing facilities to all Departments, Bureaux and Branches of our organisation.

Legal Technicians

We also require a number of experienced professionals (Solicitors, Barristers or Legal Executives or persons trained to similar standards) for appointment in the following fields of work:

Civil Disputes Litigation
Debt Collection and Enforcement
Small Claims Litigation (Civil)
Trustee and Executor Law and Practice
Family Law



LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST
Departments and Dedicated Bureaux

If you would like to consider joining us, please either write to, or telephone Mrs. Mary Stacey, Personnel Department, Durnford Ford Solicitors, Administration Centre, 51 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BE. Telephone: (0434) 448442.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

Marketing Information Manager £18,590-£23,210

Plus Performance Related Pay

London Docklands is widely and internationally acclaimed as the most significant urban regeneration project in the world. In the UK relatively few people know the facts of its many positive achievements in just 8 years. The role, Marketing Information Manager, is a new post within the Marketing Division, serving the information needs of the London Docklands Development Corporation as a whole. Its purpose is to collate, verify and publish information from a wide range of internal and external sources to assist in the marketing of London Docklands. The Marketing Information Manager will lead a small team in developing an effective information service.

The successful applicant is likely to be a graduate with several years' market research experience either within a company or an agency. Good presentation skills, both written and spoken, would be a distinct advantage.

Starting salary indicator is £18,590-£19,745; a higher salary is negotiable for an exceptional candidate. Please write for an application form, quoting Ref: T/001 to: Mr Chris Woodman, Senior Personnel Officer, London Docklands Development Corporation, Unit A, Great Eastern Enterprise, Millharbour, London E14 9TJ.

We will start reviewing applications on Monday, 29 January 1990. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

London Docklands

SOUTH WEST THAMES REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

£11,412-£13,542 pa inclusive

This is a pivotal post which involves providing personal assistance to the Head of Training and Development as well as managing the central services administration. Success in this job will contribute significantly to the overall success of the Regional Education Centre.

Responsibilities include supplies, building and equipment, personnel systems, general services, monitoring the workload of the support staff and prioritising demands from the training staff. Previous management experience would be useful as well as knowledge of complex administrative systems and the ability to cope with pressure.

For an informal discussion, please telephone: Hilary Rowland, Head of Training and Development, on 01-572 6666.

For an application form and information pack please contact: HQ Personnel, SWTHRA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3OR. Tel: 01-222 8011 ext 4026 (ansaphone 8am-5pm). Please quote Ref: 89/205.

Closing date: January 18, 1990.

Interview date: January 26, 1990.

An equal opportunities employer.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The College has a major development programme which involves raising substantial sums to endow Fellowships and improve the buildings. For the right person, this is an opportunity to deploy professional and personal skills in a stimulating environment. A two-year engagement to achieve the main target might be followed by a continuing appointment.

Salary by negotiation. Office in College and access to Senior Common Room facilities.

Write with full CV and the names of two referees to The Bursar, Pembroke College, Oxford, OX1 1DW, who will provide further particulars of the post.

CUMBRIA MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

WEST CUMBRIA MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Appointment of

COURTS OFFICE MANAGER

(£12,354 - £14,175 p.a.)

Applications are invited for the above post from people with extensive experience of administrative work in a busy magistrates' court or other legal office.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Justices' Clerk for the proper operation and management of all administrative duties, excluding those involving the accounting function, (although an understanding of that function would be no disadvantage). A fuller job description may be obtained from the undersigned.

The post is located in pleasant purpose-built offices at Workington, not far from the scenic splendour of the Lake District National Park, where the quality of life is high. The courts cover a population of nearly 137,000 and much of the work of the Courts Office is computerised, using Unisys microcomputers with a link to the Cumbria Police Prosecutions Department. The successful candidate should therefore have an interest in and an ability to manage and develop the use of computers within a justices' clerks' office.

Generous assistance with removal and other expenses will be given in an appropriate case.

Applications, giving full details of age, experience, qualifications and the names, addresses and occupations of two referees, should be sent to me by 31 January 1990, marked 'Confidential - Office Manager'.

C.J. Armstrong
Clerk to the Justices
Hill Park, Rausley Drive,
Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4AS.
TELEPHONE: 01924 - 52244

LEWIS MOORE

Shipping/Commercial £30,000 PLUS

I am a sole practitioner with an expanding practice in Holborn.

I am looking for a Litigator, preferably with maritime/commercial experience to deal with a varied and demanding case load.

The position would suit a Lawyer with partnership potential.

Kindly contact LEWIS MOORE on 01-831 6300 for further information.

SURREY MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

COURT CLERKS

CC11 - 15 £15,807 - £18,186 (under review)
Plus Surrey Allowance £408 and leased car and BUPA
Applications are invited from persons qualified to be clerks in court to join the Surrey courts service. The main grade of CC11 - 15 is for clerks able to take all Courts without supervision. Less experienced applicants will be considered for appointment initially within the ranges of CC1 - 5 or 6 - 10 depending upon experience. Vacancies are available in the following areas:-

Religious/Quaker
The Quaker and Religious divisions share a Justice Clerk and the staff for both divisions are located at the Justice Clerk's Office in Redhill. The postholder will be required to take courts regularly in both divisions.

Staines & Sunbury
The postholder will be based at the custom built court house at Kew Green, Staines and will be required also to take courts in the Esher & Walton division.

Esher & Walton
The postholder will be based at the court house in Walton-on-Thames and will be required also to take courts at Staines.

J.M.C. conditions of service as supplemented by the decisions of the Committee apply to the posts which are subject to medical fitness. Assistance with removal expenses and legal and house agent fees are payable in approved cases together with disturbance and other allowances. Including mortgage subsidy scheme for candidates moving from a lower cost housing area. Car leasing scheme and private medical insurance available for men grade appointments.

Applications forms with further details from:
Westgate House
51 High Street
Esher
Surrey KT10 9RD
(Telephone: Esher 69055)

B.H. Adams
Clerk to the Committee

BARRISTER'S CLERK

The Chambers of James Mulcahy Q.C.,
3 Gray's Inn Square, WC1R 5AH

invite applications in strict confidence for the post of Senior Clerk.

The Chambers consists of 19 barristers who undertake a wide range of Common Law work including Criminal, Family, Personal Injury, Professional Negligence and Employment.

Applications in own hand together with a C.V. and the names of at least 2 referees should be addressed to James Mulcahy Q.C.

SOCPO Recruitment Advertising Awards 1990



The strength of recruitment advertising in the Public Sector was formally recognised for the first time last year, through SOCPO's inaugural Recruitment Advertising Awards.

In response to the tremendous interest the event generated, and wishing to continue to encourage innovation in the field, SOCPO will again showcase the industry's best creative work this year. The awards ceremony will take place on March 21st at the SOCPO Annual Seminar in Blackpool.

To qualify for entry, you must be an advertiser in the Public Sector. Entry is free, and all advertisements must be submitted by January 29th 1990.

The judging panel is drawn from members of the SOCPO Executive Committee, sponsors, and PRO's in the Public Sector. They will select twelve category winners, from which one overall winner will be chosen.

This year's category sponsors are: Personnel Today, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Sunday Times, Opportunities, Municipal Journal, The Independent, Social Work Today, The Times Educational Supplement, Computer Weekly, Local Government Chronicle, the Reed Carew Publishing Group (Public Sector).

For full details of how to enter please write to: Annabel Anderson, SOCPO Recruitment Advertising Awards Secretary, c/o 26 Brassey Square, Battersea, London, SW11.

HORIZONS

People who guide the dogs that lead

A dedicated group train the animals that help the blind. Janis Mackay visits a centre where trainers are taught

In 1931, in a garage in Wallasey, Cheshire, the first four guide dogs for the blind were trained. Today, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, a charitable organization, has more than 6,000 dogs. Most are working guide dogs and 4,000 blind people in Britain are estimated to have them.

The association obtains all its dogs from its breeding centre near Warwick. Most are labradors and golden retrievers. At any time the association has about 700 puppies, which in this early stage of training are taken into "foster" homes to be looked after by volunteer families, known as puppy walkers.

With its puppy walker the animal becomes accustomed to people, traffic and the hustle and bustle of life. At a year old it leaves the family environment for a training centre.

Who then are the people training these dogs to such a level that ultimately a blind person can enjoy more freedom and independence than any stick or machine can give?

I visited the association's centre in Forfar, Scotland. There are seven such centres throughout

Britain, and smaller "satellite" centres are also being set up. There are about 20 dog-handling staff at every centre, falling into the three main categories of kennel staff, dog-trainers and guide dog mobility instructors. I was struck by the dedication and commitment of the people involved with the care and training of the dogs.

The work, it is fair to say, is not so much a job but a way of life. All staff begin their apprenticeship living in at the centre and should be prepared to move to any of the centres, making the job difficult for people with families or a preference for a settled lifestyle. Staff can be up at dawn, abed with the moon, sometimes working six and a half days a week and away from home.

To become a guide dog mobility instructor, staff are involved at the advanced stage of the training, working with the blind people, matching the dog with the blind person, then teaching the blind person how to handle the dog. It requires a two-and-a-half-year apprenticeship.

Dog-handling staff begin in kennels. This preliminary stage lasts six months and ends with an examination. If successful, the apprentice advances to develop basic dog-trainer duties. This stage



Partners: Shona Cormie with Quella at the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association training centre in Forfar

lasts a minimum of nine months and ends with the trainer's exam.

In the final stage of at least 15 months the apprentice works with an instructor to learn the skills required to develop a dog into a trustworthy guide dog. The culmination of this stage is the guide dog mobility instructor examination. The successful student is now ready to instruct a dog, work with blind people, and instruct an apprentice.

Shona Cormie, an instructor with the association for 10 years, says: "Every day is different. One

day I might be down town taking the dogs through obstacle courses. Another day I could be introducing a blind student to a new dog. To witness that relationship is somehow very humbling."

She manages to combine her work with marriage, showing that one does not necessarily rule out the other. "Most of my work while training dogs is a reasonable 9 to 5," she says. "During 'class' things are a bit different."

Class lasts for a month three times a year. This is when the

blind people who have been granted a dog after assessment by the instructor attend the centre. The work then becomes its most intense for the instructor, and possibly the most rewarding.

The blind people, known here as students, leave their homes and learn how to handle their dog. This can be difficult for the blind student, and the staff need all their skills in dealing with people as well as animals. During class an instructor will work six and a half days a week and may have to be involved in the blind residents'

evening social activities. This training period is followed by after-care, for which the instructor goes to the home of the blind person, now united with his dog, and helps him with routes.

An instructor usually works with five dogs at once, eventually matching four of them to blind applicants. The extra dog is there to ensure the best matches are made. The instructor follows progress, and after-care visits can take the instructor away from home for a week at a time. Follow-up visits are usually every six months, particularly when the dog is near the end of its working life of between eight and 10 years. The blind person then returns to class and is given a new dog. Where possible, the retired dog stays in the blind person's home as a pet, or a suitable home is found.

Dog-training staff and instructors spend much of every day walking. They help the dogs to settle into a training routine. Priorities here are to have the dog walking at a comfortable speed and in a straight line and obeying basic commands. Training means patience and perseverance, repeating things many times, and with voice and gestures implanting conditioned reflexes into the dog so that it knows when, and when not, to obey a command.

The blind owner may order the dog forward when there is an obstruction. The dog has to be able to negotiate heights and take account of the width of the person walking beside it. Before handing the dog on to the instructor for

advanced training the trainer will have worked blindfold with it. Some staff are happy to remain as trainers, others as kennel staff. Elaine works in the dogs' hospital - kennels for ailing dogs or, as is often the case, those that have been spayed or castrated. Her day begins at 6.45am. Paperwork can take it into the evening. Elaine is nurse to her dogs and loves her job. She, like many other staff, lives at the centre and is dedicated.

Dedication and commitment are vital. Salaries start at £8,620 for an apprentice and can reach £14,975 for an instructor. But Cormie points out: "This is not something you do for the money. You can have low days, walking miles in the rain, for instance. It's the memories of the good moments that keep you going."

Walking in rain, hail or shine, sometimes miles in a day, requires health and fitness. However, rosy cheeks and a way with dogs are not enough. A person involved with guide dogs must also have reasonable academic intelligence. There is often paperwork, exams must be sat and organizational matters have to be dealt with, such as after-care visits. And someone wishing to train as a guide dog mobility instructor should have experience of working with groups of people, preferably blind or disabled, and should be a good communicator - with both man and dog.

For further information: Personnel Dept. Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Alexandra House, 9 Park Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1JR (0753 855711).

Continued From Previous Page

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

A CHALLENGE FOR THE 90's

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

£36k

Circle Package including Benefits

Education, Training and Consultancy are our business activities.

We provide a number of services, in many diverse markets and we are currently expanding our national and international customer base.

We operate in a competitive, dynamic and demanding service sector and as such we are committed to a strategy of growth requiring organisational change. The creation of this post reflects our commitment to the achievement of this strategy. The successful candidate will join the existing Directorate members in the process of strategic planning and business development for the College.

The duties of the post are wide ranging and varied. The key areas in which the postholder will be expected to make an immediate contribution are:

- To ensure that each aspect of the business is appraised and monitored to facilitate effective strategic decision making.

- To develop efficient financial and administrative systems and procedures for effective implementation of the College's Mission Statement and Business Strategies.
- To provide an effective and efficient Company Secretary role to our Board of Governors.

To excel in this challenging and demanding executive post you must be a qualified Accountant. You must also have a successful record of controlling the financial and commercial aspects of a significant business and possess skills in planning and business organisation.

You can expect a varied role within a dynamic and enterprising organisation which will provide scope for your own personal career development.

Candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae to the Head of Personnel Services, Humberside College of Higher Education, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU8 7RT. Telephone: 0482 440650.

Closing date for applications is 15th January 1990.

HUMBERSIDE
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



LEOMINSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Salary - up to £28,548 per annum

Leominster District Council has recently undergone a radical revision of its Departmental structure, followed by the appointment of a new Chief Executive who takes up his post on 1st February 1990. The Authority is preparing actively for the significant changes facing local government generally, and is also carrying out a fundamental review of its policies and methods of operation. In an environment of radical change, there is a determination to be progressive.

The Director of Public Services is a new Chief Officer post encompassing the traditional Planning, Technical Services, Health and Housing functions of a District Council. This is an ideal management opportunity for a person with enthusiasm, initiative and, above all, the commitment to "make things happen" in a changing environment.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate proven management experience, ideally in a multi-disciplinary environment; the ability to manage change and achieve results; energy, drive and flair, coupled with the leadership qualities to weld together a new Department and motivate staff; and responsiveness to customer requirements.

The Council's expectations are high, but as well as considerable job satisfaction and an excellent remuneration and relocation package, the area remains delightful and unspoilt.

FURTHER DETAILS and an application form may be obtained from the Chief Executive at Grange House, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8NP, or by telephone on 0568-611100. Applications are returnable BY NOON ON 26TH JANUARY 1990 and interviews are expected to take place on 7th, 8th and 9th February 1990.

G.A. ROBSON Chief Executive.

Head Injury Study CASE MANAGER £16,133 - £18,605 pa inc

This study examines the effects of case management on the recovery of head injured patients and families. It is now entering its fourth year and will run for a further eighteen months.

We require someone with clinical experience in treating patients with neurological disorders to fill the post of case manager. This work involves intensive contact with patients, families and a wide range of services in acute units and in the community. High levels of initiative and flexibility are required to find the right help at the right time.

Based at St Bartholomew's Hospital, with field work in parts of East London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Initial training and on-going supervision will be provided. Car ownership is essential.

For an informal discussion contact Mrs Price on 01-601 7665 or 0484 864303. Application details available from the Personnel Department, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London, EC1A 7BE. Tel: 01-601 8590 quoting ref. C/049. Completed application forms to be returned by 24th January 1990. Interviews will be held on 31st January 1990.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities.

Coleg Prifysgol Cymru Aberystwyth The University College of Wales

POST OF REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the post of Registrar and Secretary from 1 October 1990.

The successful applicant will be the senior member of a management team chaired and directed by the Principal. The Registrar and Secretary will be responsible for the co-ordination and day-to-day operation of the management team in pursuing their objectives as agreed individually and collectively with the Principal. The Registrar will be responsible for the field of Higher Education, is essential. The College operates a bilingual policy and a knowledge of Welsh is an important qualification. This is a challenging and demanding post for which an appropriate salary on AUC Grade 6 will be offered. Application forms and further particulars for the appointment can be obtained from the Staffing Officer, The University College of Wales, Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2AX to whom completed application forms should be returned not later than Thursday 8 February 1990.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

CHAIR OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for a Chair of Education in the University's Department of Education which will become vacant on 1 October 1990 on the retirement of Professor L. Cohen. Candidates are sought with appropriate experience and qualifications in one of the major aspects of teaching and research relevant to the interests of the Department, which include initial teacher training, in-service education and mathematical and science education.

Salary will be within the professional range (£24,765 minimum)

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar (Academic and General).

Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, to whom applications should be returned by Friday 16 February 1990. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor L. Cantor (0509 222750).

PUBLIC FINANCE

EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSISTANT TREASURER (REVENUE)

Salary £18,743-£18,226

+ Leased Car + Attractive Relocation Package
Eden is a rural district with a mix of the Lake District and Pennines. It is one of the finest places in the country to live and work. The quality of life is outstanding.

The Treasurer's Department has undergone radical transformation in the last five years with all financial systems now being fully computerised. The Council is up-to-date with the implementation of Community Charge. A vacancy has arisen for this important third tier post to continue the successful implementation of all new revenue legislation.

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic manager with a strong financial background to lead 30 staff. To find out more about the job and whether you have the right experience why don't you ring Allan Elison, Treasurer on 0768 846771.

Application forms may be obtained from the Corporate Services Officer, Town Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QP and should be returned by 19th January, 1990.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer. Canvassing of Members or Senior Officers of the Council will disqualify

LEGAL

THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION THE INNS OF COURT, SCHOOL OF LAW POSTS OF LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER/PRINCIPAL LECTURER

Applications are invited from lawyers with good honours degrees, and experience of professional practice and/or skills training, for permanent full-time or fractional teaching posts in the School.

Those appointed will teach on the new Vocational Course, which began in October 1988, and is designed to provide a practical training in the skills required for practice as a barrister. The Council welcomes applications from those with interests in teaching and developing all aspects of the Course, although there is a particular need to strengthen teaching teams in Legal Research, Remedies, and Inter-personal Skills, and in the Chancery and Commercial Law programmes. Principal Lecturers have significant administrative responsibilities, and applicants at this level should have appropriate experience.

All salaries, recently enhanced, are at present under review. The present salary scale for full-time posts is: Lecturer - £15,467 to £19,247 per annum; Senior Lecturer - £20,007 to £24,177; and Principal Lecturer - £24,977 to £30,807. Salaries include a London Allowance of £1,767 per annum. Salaries for fractional posts will be paid pro rata on the appropriate scale.

Appointments will be from 1st April 1990/1st September 1990, or otherwise by agreement.

Application forms and further details are available from the Sub-Dean, The Council of Legal Education, 4 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX (Tel: 01-404-5878).

Applications should be submitted by 31st January 1990, but those received after that date may still be considered.

LOCAL AUTHORITY LEGAL WORK LOCUMS AND PART TIME ENGAGEMENTS

A local authority in the East London area wishes to supplement its existing staff with additional contractual engagements.

Remuneration is negotiable on an hourly rate basis. Retainers will also be considered. The areas of work relate to conveyancing and civil litigation. Applicants (admitted or unadmitted) are asked to reply briefly to the box number below by 23rd January 1990 stating address, qualifications, preferred hours and or days of work and telephone number. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Box No. G22

Box No. Dept.

P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD

RUGBY UNION

England and France delay introduction of younger players

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Three of the four XV's for the first round of the five nations' championship on January 20 were named over the weekend — the fourth, Wales, is due to be announced tomorrow when the training party returns from the Algarve — and each of the five nations must obviously be looking ahead to 1991 and their potential World Cup parties.

With that in mind, it is significant that the two countries playing with the greatest choice in playing numbers — England and France — have gone for teams with an average age of just under 29. By the time the World Cup comes around in October 1991, and assuming no huge change in personnel, they will be two mature squads as against, for example, New Zealand, whose team which beat Wales and Ireland recently boasted an average age of 27 and, with one, or two exceptions, might be reaching a peak next year.

It will be a very delicate matter of judgement, therefore, which players from France or England may still be effective forces by the time of the World Cup, but, as Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said last week, that has as much to do with

motivation as it has with birthdays. The selections do, though, emphasize one or two doubts about the back-up quality available to the two countries, and enhance the importance of the matches to be undertaken over the next 16 months.

England, for example, have five further internationals this year after the completion of this season's five nations' championship. Three will be against Argentina (two on tour and one at home), one is an England XV against Italy in May, and the other a similar side against the Barbarians in September. All will be opportunities to mingle promise with experience, so that a World Cup squad of genuine depth can be moulded, which is not the case with the England side named to play Ireland.

Were injury, for instance, to remove England's first-choice locks, or stand-off half, they could not be too effectively replaced at present. The cupboard is notably bare as far as cover for Rob Andrew is concerned, while the full back position remains an area of contention.

From this side of the Channel

it is difficult to know how happy Jacques Fouroux is with his second and third ranks of players, but the newcomers named to play Wales, Olivier Roumat at No. 8 and Thierry Devergie at lock, are surrounded by players with 30 and 40 caps in their lockers — in the case of Serge Blanco, 71 caps.

France have a tour of Australia this summer during which they can experiment, a tour, moreover, during which they play three internationals out of only eight matches.

Confirmation is still awaited regarding the first and sixth matches of the tour, but the agreed programme gives the French an international as their third game, after having been in the country for something like a fortnight. As the British Isles did last summer, they have back-to-back internationals at the end of June, with no midweek match in between, and there will be some tired bodies by the tour's end.

It will be good to see Dennis Chavert in the championship once more after only two international appearances since his crowded 1987 (10 caps in the space of six months), but it is surprising to see Marc Andrieu on the wing. It is intriguing that Fouroux has uncovered another scrum half from Auch (his own position and club) in Serge Milhas, who will play in the B international against Scotland on January 21.

PRINCIPAL XV: 15 Blanco (Gloucester); 14 Chavert (Gloucester); 13 Leleu (Gloucester); 12 Leleu (Gloucester); 11 Leleu (Gloucester); 10 Leleu (Gloucester); 9 Leleu (Gloucester); 8 Roumat (Gloucester); 7 Leleu (Gloucester); 6 Leleu (Gloucester); 5 Leleu (Gloucester); 4 Leleu (Gloucester); 3 Leleu (Gloucester); 2 Leleu (Gloucester); 1 Leleu (Gloucester).

FRANCE: 15 Leleu (Gloucester); 14 Leleu (Gloucester); 13 Leleu (Gloucester); 12 Leleu (Gloucester); 11 Leleu (Gloucester); 10 Leleu (Gloucester); 9 Leleu (Gloucester); 8 Roumat (Gloucester); 7 Leleu (Gloucester); 6 Leleu (Gloucester); 5 Leleu (Gloucester); 4 Leleu (Gloucester); 3 Leleu (Gloucester); 2 Leleu (Gloucester); 1 Leleu (Gloucester).

Wales: 15 Leleu (Gloucester); 14 Leleu (Gloucester); 13 Leleu (Gloucester); 12 Leleu (Gloucester); 11 Leleu (Gloucester); 10 Leleu (Gloucester); 9 Leleu (Gloucester); 8 Roumat (Gloucester); 7 Leleu (Gloucester); 6 Leleu (Gloucester); 5 Leleu (Gloucester); 4 Leleu (Gloucester); 3 Leleu (Gloucester); 2 Leleu (Gloucester); 1 Leleu (Gloucester).

Sunshine break voted a resounding success

From a Special Correspondent

Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, was in a confident mood as the squad concluded a successful five-day training camp at the La Santa resort in Lanzarote yesterday.

The players came through the various fitness tests and other physically demanding tasks without serious injury, although many will be suffering from stiffness until the end of the week.

England plan to repeat this sunshine break in the first week of January next year with Lanzarote again the likely destination following the success of this visit. The facilities have satisfied both the fitness advisers and the players.

The match squad does not have to travel to Twickenham for a session next Sunday morning and will be able to spend a week on Wednesday for the half-day in the Irish game.

Cooke said: "Clearly we are expected to win against Ireland for the victory over Romania and Fiji have given the whole side confidence. By scoring freely by running the ball the forwards have been given the confidence to provide good early possession."

"I have been delighted with the attitude of these players who have been selected for the match. They have been prepared to be cannon fodder for game situation practice and this is a tribute to the spirit in the squad."

McGeechan will head tour

By Alan Lorrimer

Ian McGeechan is to be the Scotland coach for this year's tour to New Zealand, in May and June, and will be assisted by Derrick Gint.

Duncan Paterson, the Scotland team manager, said at Murrayfield yesterday: "I am delighted with the coaching team. Both were in New Zealand for the world cup." He added: "Jim Telfer was not available for consideration. The rest of the coaching team will be Dr Donald MacLeod, the honorary surgeon, and Denis Bradley, the physiotherapist, who accompanied Scotland to Japan last May."

The party of 30 players is to be selected after the Calcutta match on March 17 and is expected to be made public on March 22. So far, according to Paterson, none of the leading players has stated unavailability for the tour, which he sees as a big test for Scottish rugby. We have to be thoroughly prepared."

The cancellation of Romania's tour to New Zealand

means Scotland will be the All Blacks' next international opposition.

On the question of the Romanian lock, who, in entirely different political circumstances, is in his country's month ago, defected after the match between Scotland and Romania, Hogg said a letter had been sent to the Romanian rugby authorities, requesting permission for Romania to play in Scotland with, most likely, Bathampton. This follows the normal procedure whereby incoming players must have permission from their own unions before playing in Scotland.

Hogg also said the SRU had written to the International Board, objecting to their original request to implement the recent minor law changes on January 1. The plea, reinforced by England and Ireland, was decided and the laws will not come into operation until the start of next season.

On the question of amateurism, Hogg said several senior

players had already met with the convenor of selectors to put their thoughts forward, and that the SRU itself had had meetings on the matter. A paper prepared by Gordon Morrison is to be circulated to clubs, whose views are to be collected before a submission is to be made to a special meeting of the International Board, in March.

Turning to the subject of indiscipline, Hogg revealed that up to the end of December, 97 players had been sent off, exactly the same number as in the same period last season. Commenting on the fact that the alarming rate at the beginning of the season had slowed dramatically, Hogg said: "Clubs have clearly got the SRU message."

Scotland are to play their B match against Ireland next season on December 22, in Ireland, and their under-21 match against English Students, at Fyde, has been changed to April 11, a week earlier than planned.

Kiernan's net is to be more widely spread

By George Aca

Tom Kiernan, who won 54 caps for Ireland and captained his country on 24 occasions, as well as leading the British Isles touring party to South Africa in 1968, has brought to fruition a scheme which has been occupying him for some time.

Kiernan, last year's president of the Irish RFU, is now chairman of an "exiles committee" formed to keep a watchful eye on the large number of players who leave Ireland to further their education and also to encourage any player with acceptable qualifications to return to Ireland.

David Donovon is the honorary secretary of the committee which also includes Ken Kennedy, Barry O'Driscoll, John O'Driscoll, Walter Jones, and Pheon McLaughlin.

All have played the game at a high level — some at the highest — and their brief also includes a further strengthening of ties with the London Irish club, which has made a tremendous

contribution to Irish rugby over the years.

Next season's inter-provincial championship matches have been rescheduled. They will now be played on weekends as the English and Scottish divisional and district championships so that there will be no demands on London Irish players when the club has a league match.

The committee's ultimate goal is likely to be the formation of an Exiles XV to play in the provincial championships. There is obviously a lot of hard work ahead but that will not worry a chairman whose infectious enthusiasm and great love for the game will help ensure success for a venture that could bring great benefits in years to come.

The prop forward, Des Fitzgerald, will have a fitness test on Saturday before deciding whether to play against England at Twickenham on January 20.

Davies faces injury fight to meet Neath

Phil Davies, the Llanelli captain, is racing to be fit to play at Neath on Saturday in one of the biggest club fixtures of the season. Davies injured his calf on Saturday when he was playing against Swansea on New Year's Day and missed Wales's training week in Portugal (Owen Jenkins writes).

"Hopefully, I'll be fit for this weekend," he said. "If not, then for the French match. I'm having physiotherapy on the calf every day and I think I have a slight tear of the muscle."

Davies has been contacted from Portugal by John Ryan, the Wales coach and chairman of selectors. The Wales side to play France on Saturday week will be announced officially when the squad returns tomorrow but it has already been picked. A question mark over Davies' fitness will affect Ryan's plans. "It's up to the selectors now. My main aim is to get fit first and take it from there," Davies said.

Rugby are Rathkeale's latest scalp

By Michael Stevenson

Rugby School — 3
The Rathkeale — 10

Rathkeale, from New Zealand, continued their ambitious trip to England, France, Ireland and Scotland with victory over Rugby School by a goal and a try to a penalty. With one match to play against Llanelli, they have an unbeaten tour record.

That they did not manage to play anything like as fluently as they had done against, for example, Eastbourne College, was a tribute to the courage and dedication of Rugby's tackling. In this department Lloyd Chidi-Ong and Harrison were tremendous. The pick of Rugby's pack was Robinson, their mobile lock. But no one could compete with Buchanan in the

lineout for Rathkeale, while Twist, in the centre, always looked a player of class.

It is not unkind to suggest that the scrumline was a little flatter to the losers. Three clear-cut try opportunities for Rathkeale were squandered by mistimed passes or prevented by superb defence — twice by Chidi-Ong over on the left wing from his position on the right.

Finally, Twist, who had always threatened, made good ground before feeding Francis, who served the scoring pass back inside to Twist.

Rugby, trying to run the ball early in the second half, promised a significant breakthrough but, when Lloyd intercepted in his own half, his intended pass to Chidi-Ong, who was clear, was badly deflected. Rathkeale's penalty, however, cut Rathkeale's lead to a single point.

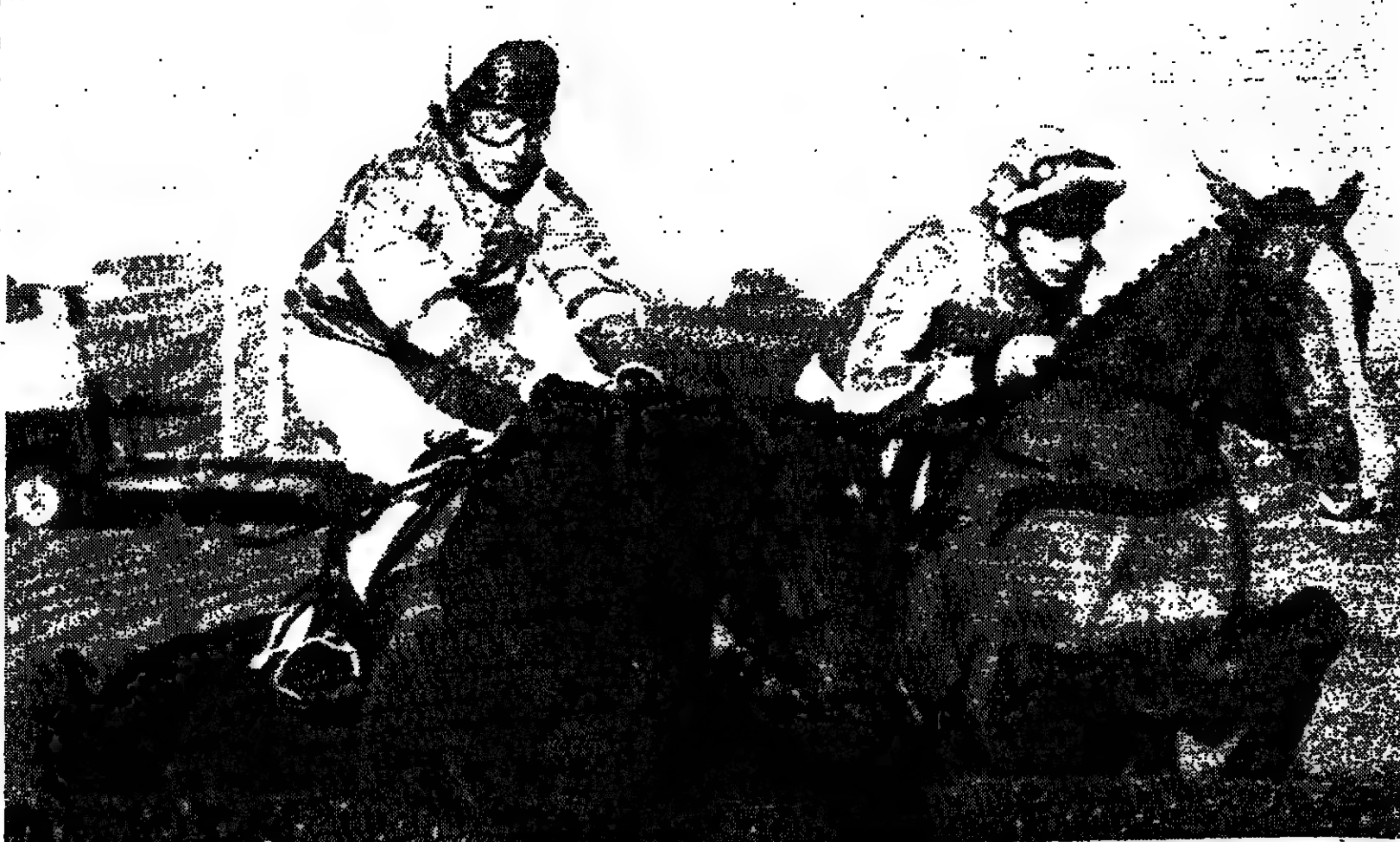
A great tackle by Glazebrook on the burly Denton prevented an apparently certain try but, as Rugby appeared to try a little in the final 10 minutes, Rathkeale mounted extreme pressure.

Finally Owles, the stand-off half, made a half-break almost to the line and, after he had been checked, he was held up and forced over the line by his pack. His conversion was a formality.

Sutton drew 2-2 with the Dutch on artificial turf then beat Polo 5-0 before taking their tour on the grass pitch and beating a Spanish club 4-0. Then on Sunday after the banquet they drew 1-1 with another Spanish side.

Slough did nearly as well in their indoor tournament in Vienna but ended second, with

RACING: CHAMPION TRAINER PIPE CONTINUES WINNING WAYS WITH 632-1 FOUR-TIMER



Blue Rainbow (Peter Scudamore, right), overhauling Setter Country (Wally Irvine) at the last, helps Martin Pipe land a four-timer at Cheltenham

Lucky Verdict shaping for Triumph

Martin Pipe collected a superb 632-1 four-timer at Cheltenham today, and also gained full marks for his skills as a clairvoyant.

The man with the Midas touch has already trained 123 winners this season — twice as many as anyone else — and predicted with uncanny accuracy the outcome of the first division of the Rabbit Novices' Hurdle, won in grand style by his possible Triumph Hurdle candidate, Lucky Verdict.

His owner, Richard Green, was on Concord in mid-Atlantic while the race was being run, but he had rung Pipe from Heathrow earlier in the day.

"I told Mr Green what the result would be, and even gave him the forecast, but unfortunately I got the starting price wrong," quipped Pipe with a grin.

Lucky Verdict, the 6-4 on favourite, quickened the tempo approaching the final flight to dismiss Devils Valley by 12 lengths, and Corals instantly trimmed his Triumph Hurdle odds from 33-1 to 20-1.

Wins from Millinetta, Blue Rainbow and North Lane completed the champion trainer's second four-timer of the season.

and he considered yesterday's haul should have been five.

Pipe's Wingspan, 6-5 on favourite for the Pheasant Chase, was delivering a powerful challenge to the leader Bendicks when he came down at the final fence.

But Pipe supporters were happy enough, and many betting shop punters coupled up his

runners. Graham Sharpe of Hills reported: "We are ashen-faced. The nearest equivalent to this was Lester Piggott in his heyday. When he had a good day, we had a bad one."

North Lane, at 13 the senior member of Pipe's ever-increasing team, was given a fine ride by Peter Scudamore to outstay Derander in the Johnny Clay

Memorial Chase Handicap by 2½ lengths.

Two young jockeys named Foster were in action in the Future Chasers Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle and their fortunes could not have been more contrasting.

Martin Foster, the youngest son of former West Country jockey Johnny Foster, won the

race on the previously disappointing mare Millinetta, and Stewart Foster — no relation — was in trouble with the stewards after finishing ninth on Sexton.

He was fined £160 for riding an ill-judged race, and admitted to the officials he had allowed the leaders too much leeway.

The success of Millinetta even caught Pipe by surprise. The mare had been pulled up in four of her six races to date, and the trainer said: "They say every dog has his day. This must have been a desperate race for her to win."

Jenny Pitman was fined £75 by the stewards at Sandown on Saturday for not running her expensive Irish recruit Danny Harrold because she feared the ground was too fast there.

However, Mrs Pitman had the last laugh when the 6-4 on favourite gave a performance full of promise as he best Junior Parker by five lengths in the second division of the Rabbit Novices Hurdle.

Danny Harrold showed signs of inexperience once he hit the front, and Mrs Pitman added: "He is like a big labouring man and we will take it quietly with him."

TENNIS

Fire hits Manchester venue

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

If ever there was a day of good news and bad news, it came yesterday for the organizers of the £250,000 Manchester Open. Just hours before the announcement of new sponsors, their 100th major tournament, but my personal concern has to be for the event and that will go on even if it means putting up marquees and Portakabins," Feaver said yesterday.

The fire started late on Sunday night and was possibly caused by arson. However, although only the squash courts and changing rooms remain of the traditional clubhouse, which was transported from Trafford Park and rebuilt in Didsbury in 1909, the grass courts were not affected.

John Feaver, the tournament director of the Lawn Tennis Association, will travel to

Manchester today, but he was confident that the tournament would go ahead as planned. "It is such bad luck on the club because this was their 100th major tournament, but my personal concern has to be for the event and that will go on even if it means putting up marquees and Portakabins," Feaver said yesterday.

Alan Fülllove, the tournament's press officer, said: "It's a question of clearing away the debris and putting up temporary accommodation or rebuilding if there's time. Maybe 50 per cent of the clubhouse remains but it's a disaster."

The irony is that the new sponsors of the Open are an insurance company, Direct Line, although they specialize in car insurance. Direct Line, who

also sponsor the Beckenham Tournament in early June, have switched their financial backing to the Open from the West-End Classic, which they sponsored in its inaugural year in 1989. The classic, a six-man exhibition event, is now very unlikely to take place.

"We have opened our third regional centre in Manchester and so this sponsorship fits in with our business," said Peter Wood, the chief executive of Direct Line. "It also gives a chance for those who may not get Wimbledon tickets to see some first-class tennis."

The DWTI International, won last year by Boris Becker, also scheduled for June 18 to 23, the people of the north-west will be spoilt for choice.

Demonstration spurs Mansdorf to victory

Auckland (AP) — Amos Mansdorf, of Israel, overcame the jeers of hecklers to defeat Karel Novacek, of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-1 yesterday in the first round of the 1106,837 ATP tourney in Wellington.

Mansdorf, the 23-year-old Israeli, was the first of a group of 20 protesters who were arrested for disturbing the peace after they booed Mansdorf and threw black tennis balls on the court, in protest over his play last year in South Africa.

Mansdorf said the demonstration had sparked him to victory. "They helped me sharpen up my concentration a lot and I think I concentrated much better than Novacek did."

Mansdorf, the 1988 champion and runner-up here in 1989, criticized the demonstrators. "I think it's disgusting," he said. "Everybody has a right to say what they want but I don't think a sports event is the right place. Why don't they go to embassies?" He said he played in South Africa because he is strongly believed sport and politics should not mix.

Upside-down under tennis

It is easy to become confused at the New South Wales Open. It is played on a hard-court surface, but the view from the press room is of the junior tournament, on grass. Rain most of the day added to the feeling of unreality, as did the fact that Andrei Cherkasov, last year's finalist, had to qualify.

Having done so, he beat Petr Korda, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. Yannick Noah got no further than 6-4, 2-1, in a monotonous slugging match against Ronald Agénor, and Claudia Kohde-Kilsch lost 6-2, 7-5 to Elise Burgin.

If the rain stops, Lendl, Becker and Wilander are ready.

RESULTS: (Australian unless stated) First round: G. Forest (F) vs M. Kowmensky (USA), 7-5, 6-3; A. Cherkasov (USSR) vs P. Korda (CZ), 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; Women's: G. Fernandez (USA) vs M. Jaggard (GB), 6-0, 6-1; G. Corbi (ITA) vs R. Hoad (GB), 6-0, 6-1; D. Monaghan (F) vs K. Agénor (USA), 6-2, 6-2; C. Camerin (CAN) vs P. Chramostny (USA), 7-5, 6-3; D. Gole (USA) vs L. Wainwright (GB), 6-3, 6-1; S. Hearn (GB) vs J. Pheasant (USA) vs S. Martin (USA), 6-2, 6-3, 7-5; N. Hearn (F) vs T. Wainwright (USA), 1-6, 6-3, 6-1.

HOCKEY

Big cup goes to Sutton

Sutton Coldfield arrived home from Barcelona late on Sunday night with the "great big cup", having won the invitation tournament (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Kampop, the club from The Netherlands, third best in their country and playing two internationals, were second, and the hosts, Polo Club, third.

Sutton drew 2-2 with the Dutch on artificial turf then beat Polo 5-0 before taking their tour on the grass pitch and beating a Spanish club 4-0. Then on Sunday after the banquet they drew 1-1 with another Spanish side.

Slough did nearly as well in their indoor tournament in Vienna but ended second, with

Frankfurt the winners. They had three good wins, 14-1, 11-1 and 9-4 against the clubs from Italy, Austria and their hosts but lost to Frankfurt.

Europe and they found Frankfurt's style very different. Slough were losing 1-0 after 25 minutes, then changed their game and the final score of 5-10 was a very creditable performance.

In the Suffolk Companies' League on Saturday, the 1-0 defeat of Haverrill by Ipswich 2nd XI took them into second place on goal average. First are Christchurch, third Haverrill, fourth Sudbury.

RESULTS: Sudbury 1-7 Copdock 11; Christchurch 1-3, Ipswich 11-0, Ipswich 11-1, Haverrill 0.

No place for runners-up

East Grinstead, winners of the Royal Bank national indoor club championship in 1987 and runners-up for the past two years, failed by one goal to qualify for the quarter-finals of this year's competition at Crystal Palace on January 19 (Sydney Friskin writes).

In an exciting finish at Swindon on Sunday night, East Grinstead were displaced in the qualifying round by Hounslow, whose 10-2 win against Bourne-mouth and West Hants enabled them to progress by the narrowest margin.

INDOOR QUALIFIERS: Old Loughborough, St Albans (holders), Hounslow, Marlborough, Bedford Tigers, Cernock, Welton, Sturport.

SKIING

Racers frustrated by lack of snow

From Ray Robinson, Schladming

After the dramatic pre-Christmas decision by the FIS (International Ski Federation) technical delegate to cancel all European World Cup events until the New Year, the racers left for their scheduled Christmas-New Year break praying for snow. But the European snow drought has left their prayers unanswered and this season looks like being one of the worst on record.

The Kranjska Gora (Yugoslavia) men's slalom was run on artificial snow, the Garmisch (West Germany) men's downhill has been transferred to Schladming (Austria) where yesterday over 30 artificial snow-making machines were preparing an adequate cover to hold the race.

The famous Hahnenkamm course in Kitzbühel has less than five centimetres of snow on the lower section and the staging of the fiftieth anniversary race is still in doubt. The men's downhill scheduled for the following week on the Lansdowne course in Wengen (Switzerland) also looks doubtful. They have only 27 centimetres of snow on the lower section of the course, and no snow at all on over a third of the piste.

With only one men's downhill race completed and the cancellation of five events so far this winter, the FIS will be under increasing pressure to delay the start of the European races next winter. Already there are discussions with the racers, sponsors and organizers to review the possibility of holding World Cup downhill events in Argentina and North America before the European season commences.

There is also pressure from the racers to schedule World Cup slalom and giant slalom races on the European glaciers and southern hemisphere resorts to extend their schedule by three or four cup events.

This year's disastrous start to the World Cup season and the unprecedented number of injuries may force the FIS to accept the proposals. Every men's and

women's World Cup event so far this winter on the European circuit has been run on artificial snow. Were it not for modern snowmaking technology no World Cup events could be held.

Although 30 centimetres of snow fell across the Arlberg region of Austria and Northern Switzerland on Sunday, all ski resorts require over a metre of snow before the end of January to avoid this being the worst winter season on record.

As the warmer February/March weather approaches, the snowmaking machinery which requires sub-zero temperatures to function will cease to provide a skiable base. The FIS has indicated that World Cup racing and skiing in general will be disastrous if heavy snowfalls do not arrive within the next three weeks.

In Switzerland, 15 ski resorts are closed and over 25 have no snow. In Austria over half the resorts have less than 15 centimetres of snow on the lower slopes, and the worst hit are France and Italy. Across the French Alps there is no skiable snow below 1,000 metres. With British ski resorts such as La Plagne, Val d'Isère and the Three Valleys running only a fraction of their lift capacity, Italy is worst hit by the snow drought with only a few resorts reporting any snow below 1,500 metres.

With temperatures in Schladming at -5° today, the artificial snowmaking machinery is operating at full capacity in preparation for Thursday's men's downhill and the men's slalom which is to be run on the bottom section of the downhill course on Friday.

When the downhill was run here in 1988 the winner was Firmin Zurbiggen, of Switzerland, whose recent slalom form suggests the possibility of a double. A decision on whether the Kinabod downhill race will go ahead will be made on the January 10. Right across Europe, everyone is praying for snow.

More Austrian glory

Hinterstoder, Austria (Reuter) — Petra Kronberger gave Austria their second women's World Cup giant slalom victory yesterday, with Kristina Wachtler, her team-mate, in second place.

Kronberger, aged 20, who won two World Cup downhill races at Panorama, British Columbia, on successive days last month, was second fastest in both legs yesterday, but had a comfortable margin of 0.51sec over Wachtler, on aggregate.

Wachtler had won the previous giant slalom of the season, in Vail, early in December, a victory which ended an 11-year Austrian women's drought since Annemarie Moser-Proell won in 1978.

Michaela Gerg, of West Germany, took third place, and maintained her overall World Cup lead with 148 points. Wachtler is second on 135 and Kristina Wachtler is third on 125.

Veronika Sauer, of Yugoslavia, third fastest after the first leg, despite starting 45th, appeared to have achieved second place overall, but was disqualified for missing a gate.

RESULTS: Women's World Cup giant slalom 1, P. Kronberger (Austria), 2m 21.44sec; 2, A. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 22.34; 3, M. Gerg (GER), 22m 24.4; 4, S. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 5, V. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 6, D. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 7, A. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 8, S. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 9, V. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 10, D. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 11, A. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 12, S. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 13, V. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 14, D. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 15, A. Wachtler (Austria), 22m 24.4; 16, S. Sauer (YUG), 22m 24.4; 17, V. S

Champions corrupted by Ceausescu

The malign influence of the Ceausescus was felt in the world of sport just as it was in every other element of life in Romania before the revolution.

Every member of the Ceausescu family appears to have had a sporting hobby. The dictator himself was known as "the Great Hunter", proud of his trophies and hunting lodges, and he is known to have liked to play volleyball. Nicu, the heir apparent, loved fast cars and pistol-shooting. In the village of Scornicești, the family were the "sponsors" of the much-hated Ot football club, recently disbanded by the new Ministry of Sport.

Ceausescu's eldest son, Valentin, a doctor, physician, trained at Imperial College, and his uncle, Ilie — the brother of the dictator and head of the political commission of the army — became the patrons of the football team of the army club, Steaua Bucharest, one of the most popular teams in the country and winners of the European Cup in 1986.

The association of the Ceausescus with the club led to a rapid decline in popularity. Steaua became almost as hated as their foremost rivals, the club of the Ministry of the Interior, Dynamo Bucharest.

Steaua, like Dynamo, had been founded during the 1950s, modelled on their sister Soviet clubs, TSKA and Dynamo, respectively. Nevertheless their long-term future — in their present form anyway — is uncertain.

It is said that Valentin Ceausescu is still at large. While sources in this rumour-filled country suggest that "the dictator of Romanian soccer" has fled abroad, there are suggestions he would like to give himself up to the military men of his former pet club.

If this is true, Ceausescu could make a fatal mistake. He and his uncle are as passionately hated in the club as their family in the country at large.

"I tell you if people could lay their hands on them they would tear them apart. There is no word to describe how hated they are," Colonel Stefan Achim, the coach of the weightlifting team, said.

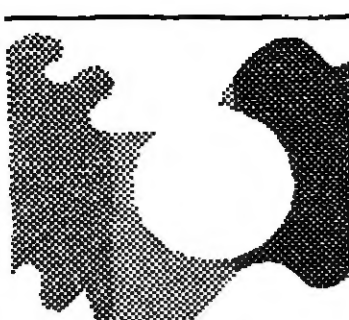
"I wish I would never hear their cursed names again," added Colonel Constantin Tanase, the commanding officer of the club.

"They have humiliated me and my colleagues and have challenged my authority. The manager of the team, Iordanescu, was so tormented by these two men that he resigned several times — though I turned his resignation down — and he ended up in a hospital with a nervous breakdown.

"Corruption was rife. The currency from various deals abroad was deposited in a special Ceausescu account. While the rugby players were desperately short of kit and the ice hockey team was unable to buy its sticks or skates, the football team became an enterprise run by the uncle and son. When I challenged them several times, I was told off and simply forbidden from having anything to do with the football team.

"Before Steaua's European Cup game against PSV Eindhoven last autumn, General Milea, the Defence Minister — he committed suicide rather than order the army to open fire on the demonstrators — asked me to manage the team in The Netherlands. The day before departure young 'dictator Ceausescu' managed to convince his uncle, Ilie, the general — who as a deputy Defence Minister and honorary president of the club was my superior — to drop me from the touring party.

"When they returned, truly walloped, from The Netherlands, General Milea — God rest his soul — asked me to come to the



AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Romania has long been renowned for sporting excellence. Chris Thau, a Romanian journalist who has written for *The Times* for several years, has returned to his homeland to see how the fall of the Ceausescu regime has affected sport and sportsmen there. In the first of a three-part series, he reveals how corruption poisoned one of the country's most famous institutions, the Steaua Bucharest club

ministry and gave me a good telling-off for the defeat. After he had finished, I said: 'General, I'm sorry I wasn't there. I was ordered by General Ceausescu to stay behind.' The minister was enraged and said this must have been the first time in history that the order of the Minister of Defence had been changed by his deputy... but he couldn't do anything.

Colonel Tanase continued: "I wrote a report on the decline of the football team. I said that they did not train properly, that coaching sessions were 'directed' by other people — I meant Valentin Ceausescu — that the public who once supported us was now booing the team and that players played poker late at night in the hotel before the next day's game.

"My colleagues warned me that I would be sacked but we all stood by the findings of the report. Ilie Ceausescu called us the following day and just rubbished us, four colonels and a general. I told him that everything we said was genuine and we stood by it and the future would prove us right. Indeed it did."

He added: "In the evenings when I was going home, I was cursing the moment I accepted the appointment as Steaua's commanding officer. But my wife kept saying, 'Keep your mouth shut. Don't criticize or otherwise you'll be poisoned or they will get rid of you.'"

The terror, the most potent weapon of any dictatorship, forced the outspoken officer to shut up or put up, like most of his countrymen.

The obscenity of the Ceausescu rule was matched only by the corruption of the family. The two Ceausescus, uncle and nephew, used the football team as a cover up for a thriving business. The money provided by various sponsors, including Ford, ended up in their hard currency account. One of their most lucrative deals was smuggling in video recorders.



Mackintosh man: Valentin Ceausescu with the players of the Steaua club he used as a cover for illegal business deals and currency transactions



Unsporting general: the uniformed Ilie Ceausescu, shaking hands with his brother, the dictator, co-operated in the intimidation of referees

A retired colonel, Ion Voinescu, one of the leading goalkeepers of the 1950s and a former coach at Steaua, said: "They used the team to bring in the stuff. They were leaving the videos behind with their customs people and afterwards one of the junior officers in the administration would go to the Otopeni airport to collect them. I don't know how they operated the racket, but I remember when the videos arrived they would normally fill two offices at the ground.

"They were not interested in other sports. There was no money in weightlifting or volleyball," Colonel Carol Kramer, a former international rugby union centre, said.

"Valentin Ceausescu was the *de facto* manager of the football team. He had his favourites and corrupted the side. Some of them became genuine fat cats. The results declined accordingly."

Valentin was known as "Mr White Ford" because he had the only white Ford Sierra in the country. He was in the habit of giving the coach a half-hour pep talk before each coaching session, while the team was kept waiting.

Valentin Ceausescu was known to intimidate the referees to take care of his side. Voinescu said that when Steaua were faced with a difficult game, Valentin and his uncle would walk to the ground

and sit in the stands. "They would call the referees and warn him that they were there to monitor his 'fairness'."

"Poor referees! However, the Steaua v Dynamo match was always a real predicament for them. On the one hand, they had the Ceausescus and on the other there were the Securitate, which meant for most of them passports, car fines and harassment," Voinescu said.

A few years ago, unhappy with a referee's decision in the final of the Romanian Cup between Steaua and Dynamo, just before extra time, young Ceausescu ordered "his side" off the field. Dynamo were presented with the cup but a

few hours later the federation announced that Steaua had been declared the winners.

Voinescu was scathing about the associates of the Ceausescus. "They had their acolytes and operated through a system of fear and threats." At the club, he said, it was the head of the football section, one Ion Alexandrescu, now a vice-president of the Football Federation.

He said the present Sports Minister, Mircea Angelescu, was one of those waiting for the "little king" at the top of the stairs when he arrived at the Sports Ministry. It was Alexandrescu who brought Ceausescu junior to the club and then to the Federation and began to operate under his protection.

Sportsmen sacrificed themselves

The strategic position of the army club, Steaua Bucharest, between a significant armoured unit and the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence made it one of the chief targets for the ferocious assaults of the Securitate forces attacking from their hideout among the graves of Genesca military cemetery.

Colonel Constantin Tanase, the commanding officer of the club, said: "They launched 26 attacks in five days. The first to die in action was Major Radu Dumbrava, a former captain of the Romanian rugby union team and assistant coach of our club, who fell in the first attack around three o'clock at night."

"The captain of the club's rugby side, Florica Murariu, was killed in town at a road block while driving in to join the defenders," he said.

A young track and field athlete, Petru Astafei — the brother of the junior world record holder in the high jump, Alina — was also killed at night. Several other Steaua athletes, including another member of the rugby section, Constantin Christian, have been injured.

The club was under siege for nearly a week and it proved impossible to bury the dead. Once Colonel Tanase shouted to the attackers: "Stop this nonsense. There is nothing here but ice hockey sticks, medals and caps." But they kept coming...

TOMORROW
The revolution's effect on football and rugby

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth L (cm)	U	Conditions Piste Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm) °C	Last snow fall	
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	14	84	fair varied	poor	snow	-4	8/1
Good skiing on upper slopes							
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	24	40	worm heavy	poor	fine	-4	5/1
Good skiing at Pass Thurn, other pistes worn							
Obergurgl	35	115	worm moguls	icy	fine	-5	6/1
Some good runs still to be found							
St Anton	30	85	fair varied	art	fine	-3	6/1
New snow has rejuvenated the pistes							
FRANCE							
Tignes	5	110	poor crust	icy	sun	-5	23/12
Grande Motte providing best skiing, few queues							
Val d'Isère	10	40	fair crust	art	fine	-9	22/12
Self good skiing available, icy and worn down to the village							
Val Thorens	10	50	worm crust	art	fine	-2	22/12
Pistes in good condition on upper slopes. Snow cannons being used							
ITALY							
Cervinia	25	60	fair crust	icy	fine	-3	6/1
Best skiing on higher runs out of the sun							
Courmayeur	15	50	fair poor	closed	sun	0	23/12
Good skiing due to snow cannons, some icy patches							
SWITZERLAND							
Crans Montana	0	40	worm varied	closed	sun	2	23/12
Pistes on Plaine Morin and Belle Lue still good							
Davos	15	77	good powder	closed	fine	-10	6/1
New snow and sunshine giving good skiing							
St Moritz	20	70	good varied	fair	fine	-8	6/1
Good skiing available							
UNITED STATES							
Jackson Hole							
Good ski conditions, powder off piste but high winds							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND
Cairngorms: Snow level, 2,800ft; vertical run, 2,000ft. Runs: open, no snow; lower, no snow; access roads clear; chairlifts, closed. All towns closed. Glenelg: Insufficient snow for skiing at all levels; no lifts or tows operating; access roads open; patches of snow above 3,000ft. Loch Lomond: Insufficient snow for skiing; access roads open; patches of snow above 3,000ft. Loch Lomond: Insufficient snow for skiing; access roads open; patches of snow above 3,000ft. Loch Lomond: Insufficient snow for skiing; access roads open; patches of snow above 3,000ft.

ALL BOX NO. 10000 SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. 10000
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET
LEEDS
LS1 3BB
E1 990

Azinger claims distinction

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

The very best spirit of golf was seen in Paul Azinger's one-stroke victory over Ian Baker-Finch in the close finish to the Tournament of Champions here on Sunday.

Azinger, aged 30, who distinguished himself with a singles victory over Severiano Ballesteros and by the gaining of two more points in the Ryder Cup, in September, and the Australian, aged 29, were partners for the last three days, and later, the American said that they were "among the pleasantest I've spent in tournament golf."

One felt that Azinger would very likely have made the same remark had he lost narrowly to his dogged rival, from Queensland. Friendships are formed in professional, as well as in amateur, golf, and it was clear that these two upstanding young

GOLF

Thornhill plans defence

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

professionals "really bit it off". Baker-Finch flew immediately to his native Australian circuit, but he said that he would probably be back for the Los Angeles Open, at the end of February. He has created an excellent impression already for sportsmanship and competitiveness and a great future is being predicted for him. After a bogey at the 4th, he showed tremendous resilience in the final round, with seven birdies in the next 10 holes.

Baker-Finch, who led the Open in 1984 and won the Scandinavian Open the following year, earned a two-year United States exemption by winning the Colonial title by four shots in Texas last May, and he has everything required to make a big mark in the U.S.

His duel with Azinger produced 43 birdies in the 72 holes, and none of these was dramatic than the six they had

over the last eight holes.

Azinger holed a 15-yarder from the edge of the 11th green, but Baker-Finch followed him in from 12 feet. The American birdied the long 12th after hitting the green with a fine four-wood second stroke, but the Australian equalled that birdie with a pitch to eight feet. He ran in two more birdie puts of eight feet and 12 feet on the 13th and 15th greens to square the match, only to lose by driving under the lip of a bunker at the 18th. "I rushed the drive," he said.

Azinger did not take three puts during the entire tournament, and he could well go on to be the man of the year.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 272: P. Azinger, 65, 65, 65, 65, 272; I. Baker-Finch (Aus), 66, 67, 73, 68, 274; M. O'Meara, 68, 73, 65, 69, 275; W. Grady (Aus), 69, 72, 68, 69, 278; G. Norman (Aus), 65, 72, 71, 70, 281; S. Hoch, 68, 68, 71, 71, 281; M. Oakeshott, 70, 68, 68, 75, 281; J. T. 73, 70, 67, 68, 282; G. Sarney, 71.

Clubs of gold above border

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

The professionals of Scotland will be competing for more than £300,000 in prize-money for the first time next summer. The continuing expansion of the Scottish PGA calendar means that a minimum of £517,000 will be at stake over 153 days of competitive golf north of the border and the figure could yet reach £550,000.

The 1990 total is a far cry from the start of the previous decade when the Scottish professionals had only £13,000 to share among them and the prize fund has increased considerably from last year's £450,000. Carnoustie continues its attempt for important recognition again when it stages the 1990 Wilson club professional championship from July 3 to 6.

Thornhill plans defence

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

Jill Thornhill, the Curtis Cup captain, is up to her eyes in paperwork, plotting and planning for her players' every need as she prepares to defend the cup against the United States at Somerset Hills, New Jersey, on July 28 and 29.

The last time the British and Irish team played in America was four years ago, at Prairie Dunes, Kansas, where they became the first side to beat the US at home. Since then, the Ryder Cup team has done the same and, last August, the Walker Cup completed the

Thornhill plans defence

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

American-style greens of the East Sussex National course to help her side prepare. "Geoff said his players had benefited a great deal from practising there," Thornhill said.

"We suffered a little at the world amateur team championship in Sweden last year because we weren't familiar with East, sloping greens where your shots into the green have to be carefully placed. We don't want the same inexperience to hinder us in America. At East Sussex, they've told us they'll have the greens at the same speed as Somerset Hills, which is just what we need."

The team will have two practice sessions, the first shortly after it is chosen, in June, and the second on July 19, the day before it flies out.

SWIMMING

A greater splash is sprint aim

By Craig Lord

In a move to upgrade the public profile of swimming in Britain, six of the country's leading clubs will compete in the 1990 Speedo Fast Water Meet in March. One of the aims of the Amateur Swimming Association in the Swim Fit Year is to reverse the view that the sport is unexciting.

The Fast Water Meet, to be held at Barnet Copthall, London, on March 23, will aim to achieve this by staging a programme of 50-metre sprint races on each stroke, which are virtually guaranteed to provide close finishes.

The City of Birmingham, last year's winners, will be joined by Kelly College, Barnet Copthall, Beckenham, City of Leeds and Portsmouth. Clubs from Sweden, France, Belgium and Holland have also been invited to take part. Each team will have eight members, whose times will be combined to achieve an overall result.

Such departures from normal competition practices have drawn criticism in the past for leaving those who concentrate on individual medley and distance freestyle events out in the cold.

However, advocates of sprint meets argue that such races are more exciting for television viewers and therefore are more likely to attract sponsorship.

Scotland held its first televised head-to-head sprint meeting in December, but far from creating more exciting viewing, it proved to be something of a benefit for the only foreign competitor, Ron Dekker, of The Netherlands. He won almost every race.

However, at Barnet, there will be five finalists, instead of two in Scotland.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated	TABLE TENNIS: England v China, Peterborough.
7.30	VOLLEYBALL: Women's International tournament, Gillingham, Manchester.
7.30	FOOTBALL: Third round replays: Darlington v Cambridge; Liverpool v Swansea; Millwall v Man City.
8.00	BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Fourth division: Burnley v Scarborough.
8.00	S and Q Scottish League: Premier division: Motherwell v Hibernian.
8.00	First division: Alton R v Hamilton.
8.00	Second division: Stenhousemuir v Berwick.
8.00	Zenith Data Systems Cup: Southern area quarter-final: Swindon v Norwich.
8.00	Layland Data Cup: First round: Aldershot v Walsley.
8.00	Doncaster v Lincoln.
8.00	Doncaster v Stockport.
8.00	Doncaster v Bury.
8.00	Hull v York.
8.00	Preston v Wigan.
8.00	Rotherham v Huddersfield.
8.00	Preliminary round play-off: Mansfield v Leyton O.
8.00	INTER-LEAGUE CLUBBING CUP: Third round: Ashford v Walsley.
8.00	AD DELCO CUP: Third round replay: Hendon v Aylesley.
8.00	Carson v Leamington.
8.00	Kingston.
8.00	HPS LEAGUE: LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Rossington v Eastwood.
8.00	round replay: Burton v South Liverpool.
8.00	SEAZER HONOR: Westgate Insurance Cup: Third round, second leg: Gloucester v Moor Green.
8.00	Preston v Huddersfield.
8.00	PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bradford v Liverpool; Coventry v Chelsea (7.30).
8.00	OVERSEAS PAPERS COMBINATION: Charlton v Fulham (2.0); Portsmouth v Chelsea (7.30).
8.00	SWINHOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Lifford v Ardara.
8.00	RUGBY UNION: Club match: Trudgell v 8th Carmarthen Inst (7.0).
8.00	OTHER SPORT: DARTS: World professional championship, 3rd round, 1st leg: John Parrott v Jimmy White.
8.00	SHOCKER: Manchester Credit Classic, Blackpool.

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Edwards given yachting award

From Barry Pickthall
Auckland

Tracy Edwards, the skipper of Maiden, Britain's all-women Whitbread Round the World Race entry which leads its class at the halfway stage in this global event, has been voted the 1989 Yachtsman of the Year.

The annual award, given by the Yachting Journalists Association with the support of the Brest Walker Group, was presented yesterday in Auckland by Peter Blake, the skipper of Steelhead 2, the leading Whitbread race, who won the title of New Zealand's sports personality of the year last month for his efforts in the same race.

Edwards, from Hamble, who competed as cook aboard Atlantic Privateer, the South African entry in the previous Whitbread race four years ago, campaigned tirelessly for two years, sold her house to buy the yacht and



Edwards: just deserts

overcame considerable chauvinistic scepticism to win more than £1 million in sponsorship for this first all-women entry.

She and her 11-strong crew then proceeded to put one over on the four male teams in her class to win the longest and toughest stage of the race across the ice-strewn seas of the Southern Ocean, from Uruguay to Fremantle, in December.

Then, rubbing salt in the wound, the Maiden team repeated the feat on the third stage of the race to Auckland this week, increasing its lead over L'Esprit de Liberté, the Patrick Tabarly yacht from France, to almost 17 hours.

Edwards beat the Countess of Arran, aged 71, who set a world electric water speed record of 50mph on Windermere in November for the title, along with David Cowper, who became the first man to cross the icy Northwest Passage single-handed last summer.

● Racer Sport, the Belgian Whitbread entry skippered by Bruno Dubois, arrived in Auckland yesterday to retain third place overall among the division 3 fleet headed by Maiden.

La Poste, the 23rd and last-placed yacht in the race, is due to arrive in Auckland today.

LATEST FRISHER: Division 2, 4, Racer Sport, (S. Dubois, Ben, 15days 22hr 27min. Overall after three legs 201, 87, 52, 44).

FA punishes managers and warns against future transgressions

By Ian Ross and Dennis Signy

On a day when five more Football League managers were found guilty of disreputable charges, the Football Association warned yesterday that it would take increasingly tough action to improve the game's image.

A total of 13 managers and coaches have now been called before the FA this season and Eric Dinnin, secretary of the FA's disciplinary commission, said yesterday: "I can't remember a season like it. If the problem continues then we can only make the sentences tougher still, but I hope that will not be necessary."

The managers in the dock yesterday were Colin Harvey, of Everton, John Bird, of York City, and Roy McHale, of Scarborough, who all appeared before a disciplinary commission in Manchester, and Harry Redknapp, of Bournemouth, and Terry Mancini, of Luton Town, who answered charges at a hearing in London. All five men were charged with bringing the game into disrepute under Section 26 of the Football Association's rules.

Harvey was fined £1,500 for comments he made to George Tyson, the referee, at the end of his team's defeat in the Littlewoods Cup fourth round tie against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on November 22.

Harvey said that he had been given a fair hearing and that he would endeavour to ensure he never again breached the FA's strict disciplinary code. "It is something which is now over and done with; it is in the past. It is the first time I have ever been in trouble of this nature," he said.

Bird and McHale were charged after an incident at

the end of a fourth division game between the two clubs at Scarborough on November 24. They were involved in a skirmish in the players' tunnel which resulted in Bird being arrested by police. He spent the night in a local police station but was not charged with any criminal offence.

Bird was fined £1,000 and banned from the touchline for three months while McHale received a similar ban and a fine of £800. McHale's ban starts immediately but Bird's was backdated to November after the commission was informed that his own board of directors had ordered him to watch all future games from the stands in the wake of the incident.

"It was my first match as a manager and I thought they would have taken that into consideration and been a little more lenient," McHale said. Mancini, whose formal application to succeed Ray Harford as manager of Luton Town will be considered on Thursday, was found guilty of "improper behaviour".

Harford, who left Luton last week, was one of the witnesses in favour of his former assistant, who was dismissed from the dugout by Kelvin Morton, the referee, during Luton's 4-1 defeat at Crystal Palace in the Zenith Data Systems Cup on November 22.

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November 27. Morton also dismissed two Luton players Danny Wilson and David Proctor.

Mancini later fined himself one week's pay and suspended himself for two matches from the bench "as an example". He was accused of bringing the game into disrepute and dealt with under the section relating to improper behaviour.

The commission decided not to impose a fine in view of Mancini's previous exemplary disciplinary record but he was warned about his future conduct and ordered to pay costs. Mancini described the verdict as vindication of his decision to ask for a personal hearing.

Harry Redknapp, the Bournemouth manager, was fined £250 after pleading guilty and apologising for bringing the game into disrepute by making an "out of order" remark to the referee at half-time during his side's victory at Swindon Town on December 5.

Redknapp was also severely censured and warned about his future conduct. "I will not speak to referees again," Redknapp said. "You cannot make them change their minds—it is not worth it." Six years ago Redknapp was fined £50 for a remark he made to a linesman.

Romanians plan a sale

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Romania's new government plans to sell two of its best players to foreign clubs to raise money for sports facilities.

The Sports Minister, Mircea Angelescu, said in a television interview here yesterday that the midfielder player, Gheorghe Hagi, and the forward, Marius Lacatus, would be sold after

after the World Cup finals in Italy.

The pair, who play for the army team, Steaua Bucharest, the Romanian champions, are highly rated members of the national side which is in the same World Cup group as Argentina, the Soviet Union and Cameroon, in June.

After the revolution, page 36

Downward path to success



Slip sliding away: Petra Kronberger, of Austria, on her way to winning the giant slalom in Hinterstoder yesterday — her third World Cup victory of the season. Report, page 34

Blair is back on fitness mission

By Alan Lortimer

There is more than just the pawky Glasgow humor in Jim Blair's account of what used to be the typical rugby training session (and still is at some clubs).

"For the first 10 minutes, the coach watched his players do 12 laps of the pitch and then, just for a bit of variety, got them to go in the opposite direction." There are doubtless endless variations on the theme to illustrate his point of non-relevance and sheer time-wasting.

Jim Blair, the Scot, who emigrated to New Zealand in 1962, having graduated from Jordanhill College of Physical Education and who has achieved worldwide fame as the fitness adviser to the All Blacks before their World Cup victory, has returned to his native country as guest of the Scottish Rugby Union to broadcast his message.

Blair, aged 55, who is fitness director at the privately run Auckland Institute of Sport and Corporate Health, believes that the key to any fitness programme is that it "must be meaningful and relevant and must not eat into the time of the coach, whom he sees as having an entirely different role. He regards fitness as an individual responsibility and the programme should be "tailored to the individual's requirements".

He said: "There is no use in an 18-stone prop doing long road runs. That will only lead to more physiotherapists being able to buy more BMWs. You have to discuss with a player what he likes doing and design a schedule accordingly."

Training should be there to enjoy

Lord's development hits a snag

By Richard Streeton

Building work on the new Compton and Edrich stands at the Nursery End at Lord's has fallen behind schedule and will not be completed in time for the new season in mid-April. MCC have suspended ticket sales for the new stands for both the Test match against New Zealand, starting on June 21, and that against India on July 26.

Unexpected problems met by the contractors have caused delays to the £4.5 million redevelopment scheme and means a continuation of the jinx which has dogged MCC in several matters in recent years. The work began as soon as last season finished with the demolition of the former G and H stands, facing the pavilion and popularly known as the free seats. It was due to

be completed by the end of April.

The extent of the delay will not be known for certain until further investigations during the next week to 10 days. Lt Col John Stephenson, the MCC secretary, said: "We have not got a completion date. We will discuss the options open to us during further meetings when we know more detail but it was felt best to stop selling further tickets for the new stands."

The Compton and Edrich stands will increase the seating at the Nursery End by 4,000, raising it to 9,128 and already some 3,000 Test ticket applications have been received for them since the forms went out only last week. MCC will offer alternative seating to these applicants but no further requests will be met after today. Whatever accom-

modation is available at the Nursery End will be sold on the day.

"This problem does not mean we lose all 9,000 seats this summer," Col Stephenson said. "It may be that one stand will be finished and we shall have to put up a second, temporary stand — we just do not know at the moment." "Overall, it is dreadfully unfortunate as there is a limit to how much work can be continued once the summer's fixtures start, bearing in mind it would all be happening behind the bowler's arm."

The Lord's season opens on April 17 with a four-day game between MCC and Worcestershire, the champion county. Middlesex start their home fixtures on April 24.

It is doubtful whether a wholesale reallocation of the ground's April and May fixtures is feasible. More likely, when the extent of the contractors' problems are known, is that they will do what they can before the rebuilding is finally completed next autumn. Already MCC have got to face the fact that revenue will be lost from advertisement boards on the new stands; and that the grass lifted from the ground at the Nursery end — to create a road and working area for the contractors — might not be relaid by April 1. This is the latest date it would need to be put down in order to give it time to settle again before the season's start.

The lifted grass is laid out in the members' car park, normally another source of revenue. MCC will also be involved in additional mailing to their 20,000 members explaining the problems.

Hampshire hope for Gower

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

Hampshire remain favourites to sign the unsettled David Gower, despite confirmation yesterday of a second official approach, from Kent.

Gower returned to this country last night after a short holiday and is expected to decide his future in county cricket within a week. Leicestershire remain hopeful of retaining him, but they know the strength of the opposition.

Mike Turner, the Leicestershire chief executive, said yesterday: "I spoke to David just before he went away and although nothing was decided, he promised me he would not

finally make up his mind until we had talked again."

"I am still working in the hope and assumption that he will be with us for another season, but I have now received formal approaches from both Hampshire and Kent."

The move by Kent, where Gower was born, was explained by Jim Woodhouse, the chairman of the club's cricket committee. He said: "I have spoken to David, with Leicestershire's permission. We understand he should be making his decision shortly, and if he decides to move, we

would be delighted to have him."

Like Nicholas, of Hampshire, Christopher Cowdrey, the Kent captain, is a close friend of Gower's, who resigned the leadership at Leicestershire after being controversially omitted from England's winter tour party.

Coincidentally, Gower will be in Kent today, performing an official function at his old school, King's in Canterbury, but he is unlikely to see his county chief Turner until early next week.

More cricket, page 33

Home unions consider Lions v Romania game

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The four home rugby unions, which are considering the most effective means of helping Romanian rugby through a traumatic period in the wake of the revolution in that country, were notified yesterday of a scheme to bring together the 1989 British Isles touring team in a fund-raising match.

The idea comes from Hove Rugby Club, whose chairman, Richard Jenkins, has sent invitations to all the playing members of last year's touring party to take part in a match against a Romanian Select XV at Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club on April 29.

It is Jenkins's hope that with sponsorship and a healthy crowd, a sufficient sum can be raised to be worthwhile both for the Romanian Rugby Federation and his own club, which has plans for new facilities. However, the match may depend upon the response of the players and the approval of Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

whose unions would need to give permission to players wanting to take part.

Finlay Calder, captain of the 1989 Lions, said yesterday that the players were likely to respond favourably in such a cause. Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, pointed out the logistical difficulties of the exercise but added: "I don't say everything has to be restricted to what we do. It's a free country and good luck to Hove."

The RFU has already sent messages of support to Romania and is awaiting the return of the messengers before considering, in conjunction with the other home unions, how best to help. It has also received a variety of suggestions from member clubs about giving aid, including several who wish to organize collections at matches on behalf of the Romanians, among them Bath, who played Steaua Bucharest last October.

More rugby union, page 34

Crooks signs in time to beat Cup deadline

By Keith Macklin

For the second time in three seasons, Lee Crooks has commanded a transfer fee of £150,000. Yesterday Castleford beat the Challenge Cup deadline to sign him from Leeds, beating off the challenge of Featherstone Rovers, who had offered £170,000 for

the player, but could not agree on personal terms.

Crooks was transferred from Hull to Leeds in the 1987-88 season for £150,000. This is £5,000 less than the record, paid by Leeds to Hull, for the Great Britain centre, Garry Schofield.

Crooks has had a somewhat wayward career since he joined Leeds. He has several times been dropped from the first-team squad and in October was put on the transfer list at £250,000. Recently he asked to come off the list and was won back his first-team place.

Castleford travel to St Helens on Sunday for a preliminary round game in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Other transfers which beat the Cup deadline involved Russ Walker, the Barrow captain, to Hull; Jeff Clare, the Wigan utility player to Salford; Mark Lee, the St Helens hooker and Darren Bloor, a Swinton half back also to Salford; Keith Holden, scrum half, from Warrington to Swinton; Marquis Charles, a centre, from Dewsbury to Hull and Steve Dobson from York to Sheffield Eagles.

Three Great Britain internationals are struggling to be fit for Wigan's Regal Trophy final against Halifax at Headingley on Saturday. Joe Lydon, Andy Gregory and Shaun Edwards will be given fitness tests on Thursday.

● Vince Gribbin, the Whitehaven threequarter, has appealed against an eight-match suspension imposed last week.

Lateral thinking is to be encouraged

"It was a courageous move by them to introduce something completely different. Since then my ideas have filtered both down and up."

Blair is in Scotland until January 22, by which time he will have taken practical sessions in all the districts at under-21 level and will have seen the Scotland squad at Glenageary. He sees his role not as passing on a specific formula but of inculcating a more realistic approach in Scotland to fitness training.

"I am not here to tell anyone what to do. Accept, adapt, adjust or discard what you see fit for your needs," he said. Blair believes that entrenched attitudes need to be changed and that the capacity for lateral thinking needs to be tapped. He applauds the move by the Scottish Rugby Union to appoint David MacLean as fitness adviser to the Scotland squad and is looking forward to seeing him in action at Glenageary.

Blair, aged 55, who lists Archie McPherson among his fellow students at Jordanhill, is keen to dispel the myth that facilities are all-important. "I designed a programme for a team which had only a supermarket car park to train on. His visits to the more remote areas of Scotland may well modify that thinking, but for the moment Blair is evangelically enthusiastic about his mission back to his homeland."

COME MIDWEEK,
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Becker to quit in two years, claims coach

Munich (AFP) — Boris Becker, the Wimbledon and US Open tennis champion, will probably quit in two years' time, Niki Pilić, the West German Davis Cup captain, said yesterday. Pilić told an international meeting of tennis coaches that he had come to this surprise conclusion after several conversations with Becker, aged 22.

"I think Boris will only play for two years. He is already looking for a new challenge, mainly on an intellectual level," Pilić said. Becker is already a multimillionaire, set up as a tax exile in Monaco. He has reportedly insured himself for about £6 million against kidnap.

The Yugoslav coach, who has run the West German Davis Cup team for eight years, said he had built up close contacts with his leading player only since 1987, two years after Becker had won the first of his three Wimbledon titles. "I'll then we had never spoken confidentially," Pilić said.

Forced out by damage

Two more entrants in the Globe Challenge single-handed non-stop round the world yacht race have been forced to give up in the southern Indian Ocean, reducing the field to 10 competitors.

The South African, Bertie Reed, and his yacht, Grinaker, are out because of problems with the automatic pilot, boom and helm, and Jean-Yves Terlain, of France, announced that the mast of his UAP 992 had broken into three pieces. Thirteen yachts began the race on November 26.

Harris second
Mir Zamas Gul, of Pakistan, has been seeded No. 1, ahead of Del Harris, of Britain, for the inaugural Struwwelt World Young Masters at East Grinstead from January 11 to 14. The Australian, Rodney Eyles, is the third seed and two other Australians, Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitzgerald, head the women's seeding list.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Barnes: defending champion

A further spur

Brian Barnes will have an extra incentive when he defends the Wilson club professionals championship at Carnoustie from July 3 to 6. A Mir Zamas Gul, of Pakistan, has been seeded No. 1, ahead of Del Harris, of Britain, for the inaugural Struwwelt World Young Masters at East Grinstead from January 11 to 14. The Australian, Rodney Eyles, is the third seed and two other Australians, Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitzgerald, head the women's seeding list.

Revised date

The Hospitals Cup match between Guy's and St George's scheduled for today has been postponed until January 17.

Fresh start

Mark Walsham, winner of the Professional Cycling Association's season-long points competition for the past three years, has agreed terms to ride for a new team being launched by the former Raleigh manager, George Shaw. Percy Bilton, Walsham's team for four seasons, has been disbanded.

Ban appeal

The Whitehaven forward, Garry Charlton, is to appeal against the indefinite ban imposed on him by the Rugby League last week. He was suspended after officials had seen a video recording of Charlton's challenge which left Castleford's Graham Steadman requiring surgery.

Thrown out

Droyds have been expelled from the FA Vase for fielding an ineligible player, Darren Lyons, in a third-round match with Rossendale United last month. Lyons was serving a 35-day suspension imposed by the Lancashire FA when he played in the drawn game.